

George Dadd and Veterinary Journalism

ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES on the American veterinary scene about the mid-nineteenth century was George H. Dadd. While his work attracted little attention from the regular veterinary profession of his time — and even today opinion is divided concerning his contribution to veterinary medicine — he may truly be said to have been a pivotal figure in American veterinary history. During his relatively brief professional life — spanning only about twenty years — he was largely ignored by those outside his immediate sphere, and historians have tended to judge him by their own set of standards rather than by evaluating his work in its own setting. Also, it is likely that few attempts have been made to bring together any large mass of information about him beyond what may be adduced from his books.

A MAVERICK IN VETERINARY HISTORY

The facts of Dadd's professional life, when interpreted in the light of more modern medical historiography, i.e., interpretations based upon the contemporary situation rather than in the light of what might be considered good or bad today, give us an adequate picture of his contributions to veterinary medicine. Perhaps largely because he worked outside the realm of what was accepted as the veterinary profession of his time, the treatment he has been accorded by later observers is generally in-

adequate and unjust. About the best that has been said of him is that:

he condemned in unmeasured terms the cruel practices of the unqualified veterinary practitioners of the day. In this he lived up to the best traditions of the veterinary profession.

Another characterizes him as "a man completely dedicated to veterinary medicine . . . far in advance of his time." But another credits him with being little more than "an interesting and colorful character."

To some extent it is true that he was "thoroughly disliked by the qualified veterinarians of the '60's and later, and execrated for his unethical practices." These latter included the advertising of proprietary remedies, a practice which was contrary to the Code of Ethics of the United States Veterinary Medical Association in the 1860's, but which nevertheless was engaged in to some extent by some members of the Association and more or less condoned by others. Dadd also wrote extensively for laymen, both books and in the agricultural press, but so did a number of notable members of the USVMA. Being outside the official family, Dadd, of course, was fair game for criticism. It should not be inferred, however, that the USVMA did not police its own ranks during the early days — had Dadd been a member, it is likely that he might have been dropped as



George H. Dadd, M.D., V.S. (1813-1868), pioneer veterinary practitioner, journalist, and educator. Except that he was largely ignored by the "regular" veterinary profession, his more moderate approach to therapeutics might have had a considerable impact on veterinary medicine. Merillat and Campbell: *Veterinary Military History*

a number were for what were considered breaches of the Code of Ethics. But there is more than a suggestion that censorship of the activities of various practitioners — member or nonmember — was not always measured by the same yardstick. By any standard, Dadd was not immune to criticism, but it would seem that an evaluation of his activities based upon a fuller understanding of his motives and methods would result in some mellowing of opinion concerning him.

George Dadd was born in England in 1813, but virtually nothing is known of his early life other than his admitting to having studied both human and veterinary medicine. It is quite certain, however, that he did not have a graduate veterinary degree, nor is it likely that he studied medicine by other than the apprenticeship route. His own writings place him in Boston as early as 1845, but it is not likely that he had turned to full-time veterinary practice at this time. In his *Cattle Doctor*

(1850) he appends a note of appreciation from passengers of a ship on which he was the surgeon, "[we] would here bear testimony to the valuable medical services and advice rendered by him." In his first writings he identifies himself as "M.D.," adding, "Veterinary Practitioner." Later it was "M.D., V.S.," and still later he dropped the M.D. on occasions. At any rate, both from internal and external evidence, it is quite evident that he had but little experience with animals when he began writing on animal disease in 1848.

Veterinary Volumes

Beginning in 1848 he produced in rapid succession a series of veterinary books in addition to his voluminous writings in the agricultural press. While his early works inevitably reflect his inexperience with animal medicine, his medical training places even these a notch or two higher than most of the veterinary books produced in this country at the time. His later works show him to be what he truly was: a gifted and facile writer on all aspects of veterinary practice. His books include:

Chart of Veterinary Reformed Practice, Boston, 1848

The American Cattle Doctor, New York, 1850

Advocate of Veterinary Reform, Boston, 1850

Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse, Boston, 1851, 1857

The Modern Horse Doctor, New York, 1854

Every Man His Own Cattle Doctor, New York, 1856

Diseases and Lameness of Horses, New York, 1858

Nature and Treatment of Diseases of Cattle, Boston, 1859

Lameness, Boston, 1863

Theory and Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Boston, 1866

Dadd also edited and published (and largely supplied the material for) his *American Veterinary Journal*, 1851-1852 and 1855-1859, but its ultimate failure might have been predicted from its meager subscription list. Dadd himself states that there were only 15 graduate practitioners in the United States in 1847. Following the demise of his journal, Dadd served as

veterinary editor of several agricultural journals in succession from 1862 to 1865, contributing many hundred pages of generally sound veterinary advice to farmers. Dadd's efforts in this area filled a distinct need at the time, and he may be considered the first influential veterinary journalist in the American agricultural press. Later, James Law and other prominent veterinarians wrote extensively for the laity; in some cases, however, this was not an unmixed blessing so far as the development of professional veterinary medicine was concerned.

In addition to his extensive practice and other activities, Dadd became associated with the Boston Veterinary Institute in 1855. The idea of veterinary education, however, was too new in this country, and the school never enjoyed the patronage that it may have deserved during its brief existence. While the Boston school ran — at best — a desultory course until 1859, the names of several of its graduates are at least a matter of record, and four of Dadd's associates in the enterprise became presidents of the United States Veterinary Medical Association after its founding in 1863. After Dadd assumed the veterinary editorship of the *Prairie Farmer* in 1863, he conducted a Veterinary Institute of Chicago for several years, but this venture must be considered little more than an outright failure.

Dadd's activities after 1865 are something of an enigma. In 1868 his name appears on a list of nonresident professors at the Iowa Agricultural College (now Iowa State University) as Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, but he died in Baltimore in September of that year. His sudden drop into obscurity is manifest from the fact that his death elicited only a few lines in the *Prairie Farmer* — the medium through which he practically established veterinary journalism as a *tour de force* in the American agricultural press. Curiously, he is credited (erroneously, of course) with having turned to other fields after this date. Merillat and Campbell state:

on into the '80's, Dadd devoted a portion of his time to lecturing on temperance and was one of those who laid the foundation for the organization of the W.C.T.U. . . . The date of his death is unknown, but occurred sometime prior to 1890.

Inasmuch as he identified himself as G. H. Dadd, Sr., during his years in Chicago, it is evident that it must have been his son that is referred to on the temperance matter.

Not of least importance is the fact that Dadd was the first American veterinary surgeon to use general anesthesia as a regular adjunct to practice. In his writings he advocates a mixture of ether and chloroform for all painful operations, and he describes its use in a number of cases. He is also credited with being the first here to spay a mare successfully and to perform cesarean section in swine — at least with any regularity and success. His penchant for advertising and his often caustic pen undoubtedly robbed him of professional recognition, but in these matters a number of prominent practitioners of the time were not above reproach.

With this much as an introduction, we can turn to a full consideration of Dadd's activities in veterinary medicine. The amount of space required for this is necessarily out of proportion to his recognized importance in the history of American veterinary medicine. But it is as much with the idea of establishing what veterinary medicine might have become earlier than it did, that this extensive account is given, as it is — in a sense — to give Dadd his long-neglected and just due. It seems logical to presume that had the body of writings he amassed during this time been attributed to a number of the leaders of the then-nascent veterinary profession, this would have long since been recognized as the pivotal period in American veterinary history.

The Vital Principle

An account in the *Cultivator* for 1848 of the death of 300 cows in Virginia from redwater elicited what may be Dadd's first communication to the agricultural press.



Dadd's "Chart of Veterinary Reformed Practice" was designed to tack up in the barn, or fold into a pocket case, and was intended as a guide to the use of remedies he manufactured and sold. Michigan State University Library

He identifies himself as George Dadd, M.D., and objects most strenuously to the recommended dosing with nitre as "opposed to the vital principle." Rather: "we must open the sluices of the body," with linseed oil and soapsuds clysters containing ginger, to be followed with the "distemper powder," in which he had a proprietary interest. And in response to a request for information on an undiagnosed disease of sheep, apparently a fatal catarrh, the regimen should aim to: "equalize the circulation, remove the irritating causes from the organs affected, and restore the tone of the system." For this purpose a decoction of horehound, marshmallow, elecampane, licorice, cayenne, molasses and vinegar was prescribed.

The following year he has one entry in which he objects to giving opiates for stretches, or colic, in sheep as "not only unjustifiable, but should be esteemed unpar-

donable." Dadd's *Chart of Veterinary Reformed Practice* was mentioned by the editor, who was "inclined to think it useful to the farmer, and all others who keep animals." In 1850 the editors had received a request for information on blackleg, and

Not being practically acquainted with the disease, we submitted the request to Dr. Dadd, of Boston. . . . Dr. D's system is in some respects new to us, and is probably so to some of our readers. We are not prepared to offer an opinion in regard to his peculiar views, but leave them to fair consideration.

Perhaps it did not occur to the editors that they had already passed judgement upon Dadd's system in referring to his "peculiar views." Undoubtedly there were others who had the same opinion.

Dadd prefaces his reply to the query with an outline of "our physiological or reformed practice and theory of disease":

We contemplate the animal system as a perfect piece of mechanism, subject to life and death; that while the vital power has free and unobstructed action, the animal is in a physiological or healthy state; but when by any means the vital power is obstructed, by over feeding, exposure, &c., it is in a diseased or pathological state.

We recognize a conservative or healing power in the animal economy, whose unerring indications we endeavor to follow. Our system proposes, under all circumstances, to restore the diseased organs to a healthy state, by co-operating with the vitality remaining in the organs, by the exhibition of sanative means; and under all circumstances, to assist and not oppose nature in her curative process.

Poisonous drugs, blood-letting, and processes of cure that contemplate destruction of parts, or in other words, act pathologically, cannot be used by us. The laws of animal being are physiological; they never were or ever will be pathological, hence we co-operate with nature and nature's laws. . . . The indications of cure, are to relax spasm . . . to contract and strengthen weak and relaxed organs . . . to stimulate inactive parts . . . to equalize the circulation, and distribute the blood to the external surface and extremities . . . to furnish the animal with sufficient nutriment to build up the waste that is continually going on. . . . No matter what the nature of the disease, the treatment should be conducted on these principles.

Dadd's readers may have been surprised, and not a little disappointed, that he had "no particular treatment for blackleg," other than as much of the regimen outlined would apply. He ends his piece with some "advice to farmers":

Let your animals have their meals at regular hours, in sufficient quantity . . . let them have good beds of straw . . . keep them clean, and avoid undue exposure. Finally, govern them in a spirit of kindness and mercy, and there will be little foothold for disease.

The editors of the *Cultivator* appear to have had some faith in Dadd's system, for shortly they requested him to write on ringbone, a subject upon which much misinformation was readily available. Dadd describes the condition well, and gives a currently acceptable theory concerning its formation, in contradiction of the commonly accepted idea of a "bladder" which

"feeds the ringbone," and which required extraction. The latter was recommended by Cole in his *American Veterinarian*. Dadd recommends a counterirritant, and states that while surgical interference is sometimes successful: "where there is no lameness, and the only object is to get rid of an eyesore, it had better not be attempted."

M.D. vs. V.S.

A matter of some interest is the fact that Dadd included the M.D. after his name in his first communications, then became just plain George Dadd, and then added V.S. to his name in the latter communication on ringbone. It would appear that this period, from 1848 to 1850, was the time during which he had made the decision to identify himself as a veterinary surgeon. In so doing, he became one of the most controversial figures in the history of American veterinary medicine, but whatever his faults may have been, it is immediately apparent that he brought to the veterinary scene an entirely fresh approach. In addition, he possessed more medical acumen than many of his medical conferees, with whom he disputed as strongly as with his newly adopted colleagues.

A contemporary evaluation of Dadd's system appears in a review by the editors of the *Cultivator* in 1850 of his *Advocate of Veterinary Reform, and Outlines of Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse; containing also a Veterinary Dictionary*:

This reform is to consist, mainly, in the abandonment of "destructive agents," so called — in other words, blood-letting, and poisonous substances. As a substitute for this, the work under consideration advocates a system which seems to contemplate rather the prevention than the cure of disease. The directions in reference to this point are, in the main, such as would be approved by persons acquainted with the subject. We agree to the old adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure;" still, with the strictest observance of this rule, we apprehend animals will sometimes be sick, and in such cases it will be necessary to adopt the best means for relief and cure. It is impossible to say what these are, under all

circumstances; but the propriety of restricting the catalogue of medicines to those wholly of a "botanic" origin, (whether poisonous or harmless,) will probably be doubted by many successful practitioners, whose opportunities for observation and the acquirement of knowledge in the veterinary art, have been neither few nor small. The same remark may be made in reference to the rejection of the lancet, in the treatment of disease. It is not our present purpose, however, to make decisions where "doctors disagree." Dr. Dadd's book contains much that is valuable *beyond controversy*.

The editors appear not to have requested any more information directly from Dadd, nor do any unsolicited contributions from Dadd appear in succeeding volumes of the *Cultivator*. Dadd's books, however, are frequently referred to as the reference of choice in answering the queries of correspondents, or in recommending works on animal disease. His books were reviewed, and advertised, as they appeared. Notice also was given to his *American Veterinary Journal*; at its inception (1851):

The *Journal* will be the medium of disseminating much useful information. . . . A work of this kind has long been needed, and this publication is issued under auspices that will ensure its success. The editor is a practitioner of Veterinary Surgery, and writes to considerable extent of his own experiences and observations. The want of anything like knowledge of the diseases of domestic animals and their remedies, results in an immense loss to the farmer every year, much of which might be saved by subscribing to this journal.

All too few, however, were willing to pay a dollar a year for the *Journal*, and it was published erratically. In 1859, the *Cultivator* expressed regrets over its discontinuance "for want of competent support."

On receiving a "Prospectus and Regulations of the Boston Veterinary Institute," in 1855, the editors of the *Cultivator* state they: "rejoice exceedingly that there is at last some prospect of an institution in this country where young men can prepare themselves for the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery." Obviously, no question was raised as to whether the four-month course (two sessions) offered was adequate; at the same time, the *Cultivator*

carried advertisements for the University of Albany, which offered a 16-week term of study in the Department of Law, with degrees ". . . conferred at the close of the term." The Albany Medical College offered two terms of 16 weeks each, and: "Degrees are conferred at the close of each term."

Moon Swine

In the *Michigan Farmer* for 1854, a correspondent asks: "Is it luck and chance in raising pigs? or must they come in a particular time of the Moon? . . . or . . . is beech shack [mast] bad food for pregnant sows?" His five sows had farrowed 40 pigs, of which only eight lived, "and two of that number at present appear undecided about staying." This occasioned "A few Thoughts on Hogs" from Dadd, who replies:

If a man by *chance* or *otherwise*, is lucky enough to have studied physiology . . . the information obtained may enable him to become a successful raiser of this description of livestock — otherwise *luck* or *chance* has nothing to do with the matter. . . . There are two circumstances necessary for the development of disease: 1st, Predisposition existing in the individual. 2nd, The Application of a specific cause.

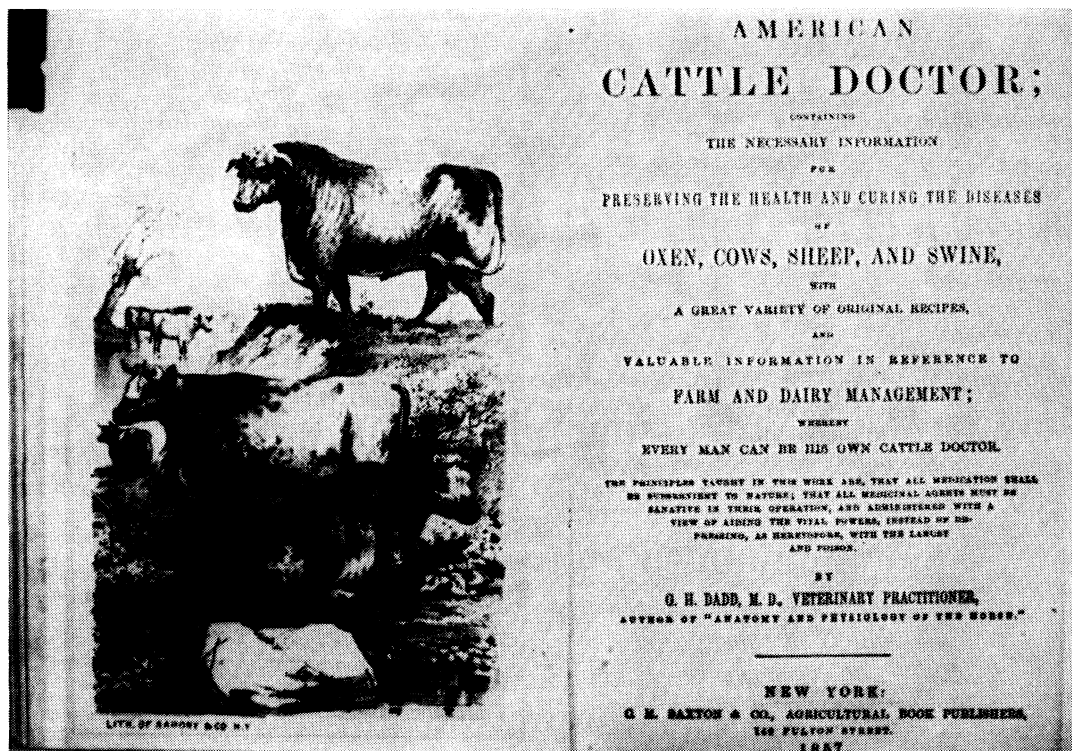
On the matter of feeding beech mast:

If the sow had a grist mill within her stomach, and it were capable of comminuting beech-nuts, so that they could be manufactured into chyme and chyle, without overtasking the stomach, I should not object to giving the animal a few.

Noting that it is theoretically possible for one pair of pigs in 16 generations to equal the world's population, he adds: "There are no fears, however, of such a host taking possession of this globe, nature regulates these things; your correspondent's pigs are an example."

THE AMERICAN CATTLE DOCTOR

Dadd's *Chart of Veterinary Reformed Practice* (1848) probably sold but few copies; its title must have sounded formidable to farmers, and there were all too few professional men who might have been interested. The first major vehicle for his re-



Dadd's *American Cattle Doctor* (1850), although based on little experience, was his first claim to lasting fame; the book was reprinted without alteration for more than fifty years.

forming zeal, therefore, was his *American Cattle Doctor*, published in 1850. In his introduction he states:

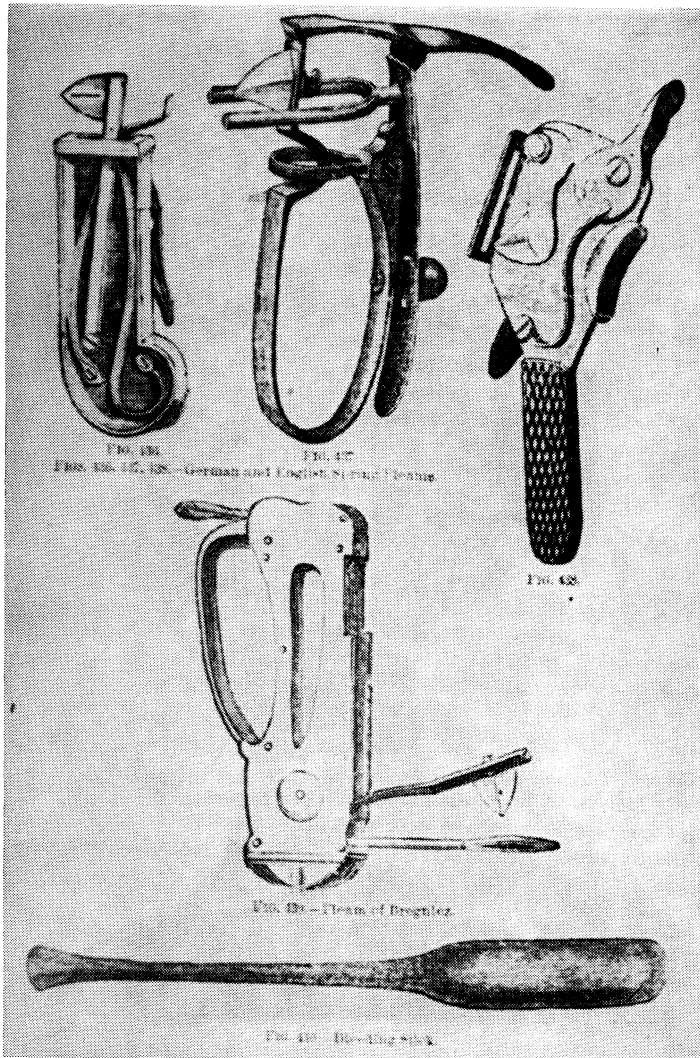
That many thousands of our most valuable cattle die under the treatment, which consists of little else than blood-letting, purging, and blistering, no one will deny; and these dangerous and destructive agents are frequently administered by men who are totally unacquainted with the nature of the agents they prescribe. But a better day is dawning; veterinary information is loudly called for—demanded; and the farmers will have it; but it must be a safer and a more efficient system than that heretofore practised.

In a vein which sounds much like John Hunter, early champion of the London Veterinary College, Dadd declares:

The object of the veterinary art is not only congenial with human medicine, but the very same paths that lead to a knowledge of the diseases of man lead also to a knowledge of those of brutes. Our domestic animals deserve

consideration at our hands. We have tried all manner of experiments on them for the benefit of science; and science and scientific men should do something to repay the debt, by alleviating their sufferings and improving their condition. . . . We advocate the establishment of veterinary schools, and the cultivation of our reformed system of veterinary medicine, on the broad principles of humanity. . . .

When the author first commenced a warfare against the lancet and other destructive agents, his only hopes of success were based on the cooperation of this mighty host of husbandmen; he well knew that there were many prejudices to be overcome, and none greater than those existing among his brethren of the same profession. The farmers have just begun to see the absurdity of bleeding an animal to death, with a view of saving life; or pouring down their throats powerful and destructive agents, with a view of making one disease to cure another! If the cattle doctors, then, will not reform, they must be reformed through the giant influence of popular opinion. Already the cry is, and it emanates from some of the most influential agriculturalists in the country,—“No more blood-letting. Use your poisons on yourselves.” . . .



Although Dadd decried the practice of bleeding, practitioners of the mid-nineteenth century found the spring lancet a convenient substitute for the thumb fleam and bloodstick. In inexperienced hands, however, the lancet was considered relatively dangerous. Liautard: *Surgery*

We contemplate the animal system as a complicated piece of mechanism, subject to the uncompromising and immutable laws of nature. . . . We have termed our system a *physiological* one, though it is sometimes termed *botanic*, in allusion to the fact that most of our remedial agents are derived from the vegetable kingdom. We recognize a conservative or healing power in the animal economy, whose unerring indications we endeavor to follow; considering nature the physician, and the doctor her servant. Our system proposes, under all circumstances, to restore the diseased organs to a healthy state, by cooperating with the vitality remaining in those organs. . . . Poisonous substances, blood-letting, or processes of cure that act pathologically, cannot be used by us. The laws of

animal life are physiological: they never were, nor ever will be, pathological.

Rivers of Blood

In "Remarks on Blood-letting," Dadd states that the general practice, by custom supposed to be infallible, was such that:

Men and animals were bled; rivers of blood have been drawn from their systems; yet they often got well, and men looked upon the lancet as one of the blessings of the age, when, in fact, it is the greatest curse that ever afflicted this country; it has produced greater losses to owners of domestic animals than did ever pestilence or disease.

He states that a few of "the blood-letting gentry" do so only "to please their employers," but dismisses the lot, saying:

But we are not writing for doctors. Our business is with the farmers—the lords of creation. The former are mere lords of pukes and purges . . . they are hidebound.

Reformers, of course, are always unpopular with those who do not care to be reformed, and his characterization of regular practitioners as "lords of pukes and purges" probably did not help his cause—except, perhaps, with "the lords of creation."

Observing that "confession is good for the soul," Dadd admits:

We plead guilty to bleeding, blistering, calomelizing, narcotizing, antimonializing, a great number of patients of the human kind. We did it in our verdant days, because it was so scientific and popular, and because we had been taught to reverence the stereotyped practice of the allopaths [regular medical practitioners]. . . . On the other hand, we are free from the charge of bleeding or poisoning domestic animals, and can say, with a clear conscience, that we have never drawn a drop of blood from a four-footed creature.

On the matter of dissemination of veterinary knowledge in the United States, he says:

We hear a great deal about sending young men from this country to Europe to acquire the principles of the veterinary art, with a view to public teaching. Now, it appears to us that the United States can boast of as great a number of talented physicians, as well qualified to soon learn and understand the fundamental principles of the veterinary art, as their brethren of the old world. . . . Just send a few to us, for example, and if we do not impart to them a better system of medication than that practiced in Europe, by which they will be enabled to treat disease with more success and less deaths, then we will agree to "throw physic to the dogs," and abandon our profession.

Specifically, he charges:

Veterinary science, as taught at the present day, is a matter for reproach. The melancholy triumph of disease over its victims shows that the science is mere moonshine; that, in regard

to its most important object, *the cure of disease*, it is mere speculation, rich in theory, but poverty-stricken in its results.

It must be admitted that there was some truth in what he said, but it is also obvious that throwing the baby out with the bathwater is rarely the logical solution. As a stopgap measure, it is probably true that given a number of pupils, the country would have benefited more than from an investment of the same time and money on education in Europe. Today, of course, we would be most suspicious of anyone who had the opinions about himself that Dadd entertained, and it would be folly to assume that any one practitioner could give an adequate education to apprenticed students—despite the fact that some might be made into reasonable facsimiles of professional men. But we are dealing with the customs and circumstances of another time—something which is perhaps not given adequate consideration by those who damn Dadd with the greatest vehemence. While Dadd's estimate of only 15 graduate veterinarians in America in 1847 may be open to question, and foreign graduates continued to trickle in, these were not always the best representatives of the profession. Moreover, the fact is that very few Americans went to Europe for veterinary education; some training at the hands of one like Dadd might have been preferable to maintaining the *status quo*.

Cattle Practice

Dadd devotes over a hundred pages to general remarks on the nature of disease, the management of cattle, and the need for reform—somewhat more than he devotes to the diseases of cattle as such. On the latter, he demonstrates a lack of familiarity with many of the conditions he prescribes for—which under the circumstances is not surprising. Thus he describes "spasmodic colic" in cattle, but fails to mention scours in calves. He is vague on symptoms, and in some instances gives none. Thus on bloat, all he says is that: "cattle . . . turned into luxuriant pasture, after being poorly fed . . . are apt to be

hoven, blown, or blasted.” He recommends the stomach tube for temporary relief, but puts main faith in a “stimulant and carminative drink.” He did not recommend puncture of the rumen:

Some practitioners recommend puncturing the rumen or paunch; but there is always great danger attending it, and at best it is only a palliative; the process of fermentation will continue while the materials still remain in the paunch. Some cattle doctors make a large incision into the paunch, and shovel out the contents with the hand; but the remedy is quite as bad as the disease.

On the other hand, his avoidance of bleeding and harsh purgatives, and his prescribing of simple vegetable remedies at least gave the farmer something to do. If this was of little help, at least it was relatively harmless, for which it can be supposed that the cow might well have been thankful. Undoubtedly the chief merit of Dadd’s *Cattle Doctor* was his insistence on good nursing care; all too many works of the day prescribed a batch of drugs, frequently drastic in action, and left the animal to its own devices.

A section on the spaying of cows is of some interest; he quotes the English veterinarian, William Percivall, to the effect that the operation was “discovered” in the United States about 1832, from where it was taken back to Europe. Dadd recommends the operation for improving the quantity and quality of milk, and for producing superior beef:

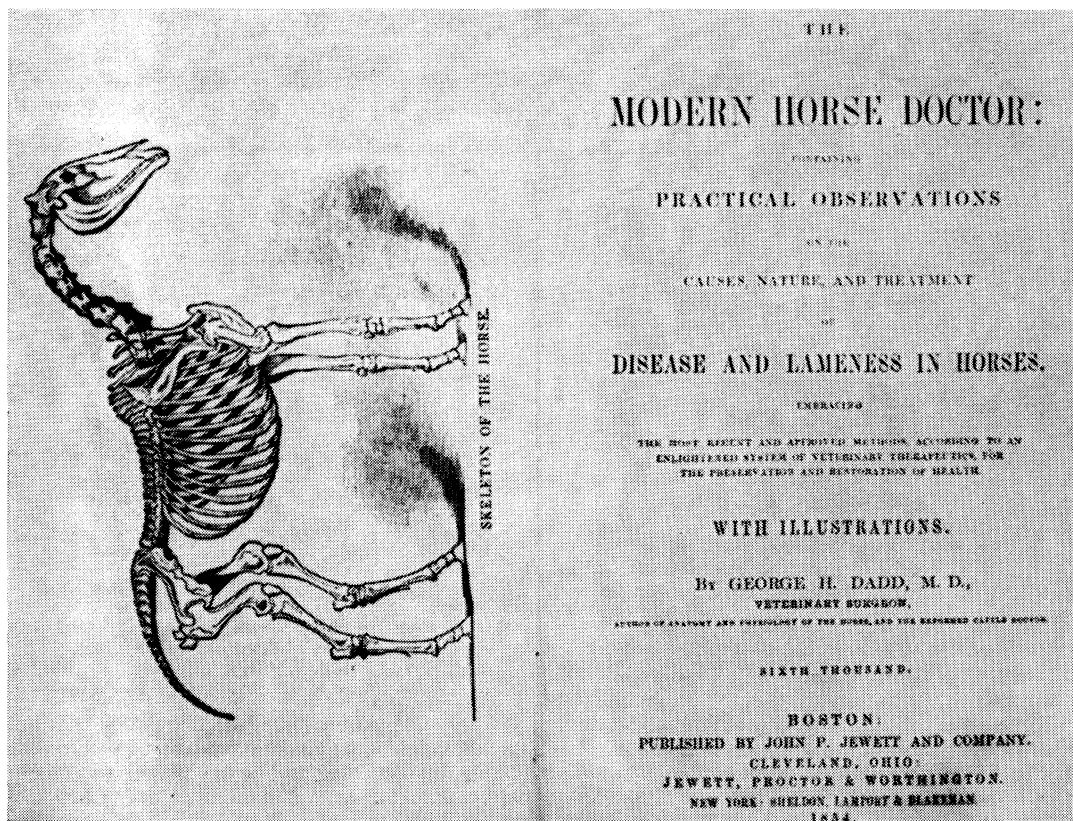
The English — those ardent admirers of beef-steaks and roast beef — profited by the new procedure, as they know how to turn every thing to account, and at once castrated their heifers, in order to obtain a more juicy meat.

Dadd also recommends the spaying of cows not fit for breeding: “for then one of the first causes of degeneracy in livestock will have been removed.” In performing the operation he mentions that chloroform can be used with benefit — an early reference to the use of anesthesia in veterinary practice. In the 1851 edition of the *Cattle Doctor*, Dadd describes an opera-

tion he had performed that year using chloroform.

On sheep, Dadd gives a tedious dissertation on “the rot,” in which he quotes Professor Simonds of the London School to the effect that the flukes in the liver are the effect, rather than the cause, of the disease, but rightly incriminates wet pastures as the predisposing feature. Evidently Dadd knew less about sheep than he did about cattle at this time; he fails to mention the sheep bot (“grub in the head”), and does not recognize the contagious nature of foot rot, saying only: “it is generally considered a local disease.” On hogs he has even less to say, and makes no mention of hog cholera. He gives a few remedies for diseases of dogs, including one for rabies.

What, then, is to be our evaluation of the *Cattle Doctor*? Obviously, it is not the result of a mature experience in the treatment of the diseases of cattle. Nor, from the medical standpoint, does it offer much in the way of specific treatment. But judging it in the light of its own time, rather than that of this enlightened antibiotic age, it would seem to have been a step in the right direction. If cattle were seldom saved by the prescriptions of the *Cattle Doctor*, at least they were saved from the heroic practices of the horn-boring, tail-slitting, blood-letting fraternity of common cattle doctors. And it might be added that doubts concerning the efficacy of Dadd’s remedies are, for the most part, not based upon experimental proof of their inadequacy. On the positive side, his avoidance of harsh methods, and his urging of good nursing care and general management should be cited. His methods for calling attention to the need for better veterinary education, and for the dissemination of veterinary knowledge, would appear distasteful today, but were not out of bounds for the ethical mores of the times. Some inkling of whether Dadd did have something to offer should be found in his *Modern Horse Doctor*, published four years later, at which time he was able to write more



Dadd's *Modern Horse Doctor* (1854), despite the opprobrious title, was far ahead of contemporary writings, but — except that the title provided an unfortunate precedent — it was superseded by countless works of others who had less to offer.

from experience, and upon which much of his reputation was based.

MODERN HORSE DOCTOR

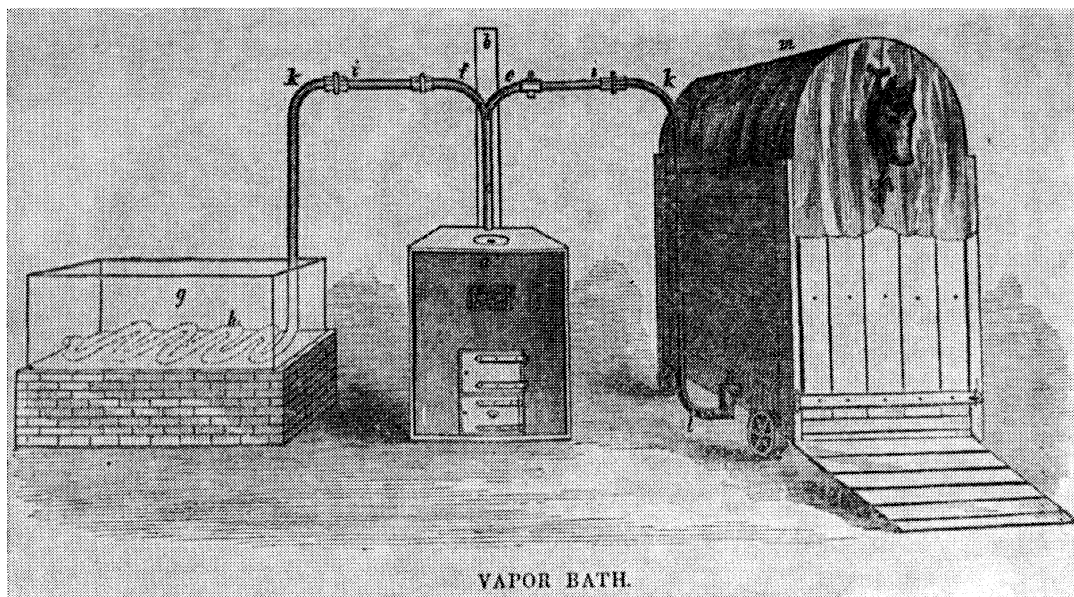
The work for which Dadd is best known is the *Modern Horse Doctor* (1854), which despite its now-opprobrious title, deserves consideration at some length, for it marks a new departure in the field of horse practice. Contemporary reviewers characterized it — in variations of a single theme — as:

a manual of genuine science, and ought to be owned and studied on the score of humanity, as well as interest, by every man who owns a horse. . . . As a handbook for practical use, we know of nothing to compare with it. . . . To many a man would it be worth hundreds of dollars every year. . . . By far the most learned and copious work on the horse and his diseases we have ever seen. . . . This book supplies a

great desideratum which Skinner's admirable treatise on the Horse did not fill. Every man may be his own veterinary surgeon, and with much greater safety to this noble animal, than by trusting him to the treatment of the empirical itinerants who infest the country. . . . One of the greatest and most commendable qualities of this work, is, it is *practical* and plain to the comprehension of those farmers and others for whom it is mainly designed. The course of treatment favors generally a more sanative and rational system of medication than recommended in any previously existing works on farriery. . . . It will be of more service than the counsel of a score of ordinary doctors.

While all this may seem a bit fulsome, Merrillat and Campbell state that Dadd's book, "despite the opprobrious title," and those of Youatt, "were valuable scientific treatises."

Nor were reviewers any less ecstatic over the qualifications of Dadd:



Vapor baths were advocated as therapy for a number of conditions by Dadd in his *Modern Horse Doctor*. A similar device was promoted by Carver in his *Farrier's Magazine* (1818), and one was exhibited at USVMA meeting in the 1890's. Dadd: *Modern Horse Doctor*

The author of this work is well known as a most skillful veterinary surgeon. . . . We know Dr. Dadd well, and are satisfied that he possesses most important qualifications for preparing such a book. . . . Dr. Dadd has had great experience in the cure of sick horses, and explains the secret of his success in this volume.

Such paeans of praise left little for the publisher, who states only that the book:

is from the pen of a celebrated English Veterinary Surgeon, Dr. Geo. H. Dadd, well known for many years in this Country, as one of the most successful, scientific and popular writers and lecturers in this branch of medical and surgical science. The book he now offers to the public, is the result of many year's study and practical experience which few have had.

In 1856 the publishers announced printing of the eleventh thousand copies of this work, considerably less than the number claimed for Cole's *American Veterinarian* in the same length of time. Cole's quite ordinary work had received testimonials almost equal to those accorded Dadd; thus the latter probably should be viewed with some reservations. Editorial comment concerning a later work, however, may be considered a fair characterization of all of Dadd's writings:

Those who know Dr. Dadd are aware that he declares uncompromising hostility to the old cut-and-slash, scour-and-burn, blister-and-bleed system, and in some instances he may carry his assaults too far. But if he errs, it is a pretty safe kind of error on the side of gentle treatment and humanity, and can appeal to nature's restorative power. We have seen enough of diseases in animals to learn that much that is ascribed to medicine, takes place often as well or better under good nursing without medicine; and also, that sometimes remedies are of the utmost importance. We know of no writer on the subject who has discriminated better, if as well, between the two courses of treatment, than Dr. Dadd.

Of his *Modern Horse Doctor*, the *Prairie Farmer* says:

It is the result of study and examination by competent hands, being neither a mere compilation like Cole's *Veterinarian*, nor a mere re-hashing of somebody else's either. It is original, practical; . . . it is greatly in advance of Youatt, whose medical practice belongs to a past generation, and a European one at that.

The first edition of Dadd's *Modern Horse Doctor* was published in 1854, and was based on "his own experience, during a professional career of nine years in the vicinity of Boston." It seems a little

strange that Dadd, who was such a staunch advocate of veterinary education, should have used so commonplace a title for his work. But the opprobrium is greater today than it was then, and Dadd states that the book:

is intended for that class of agriculturalists and horsemen . . . who are in favor of a more sanative and rational system of medication than that recommended in many works of farriery. Such individuals, in consequence of the scarcity of competent veterinary surgeons, are compelled to treat their own horses.

Throw Physic to the Dogs

Dadd repeats his philosophy of medicine:

The more a man knows of physiology, the less faith has he in medicine. . . . Health must not be supposed to exist in drugs and physic balls . . . [but] in a strict system of hygiene, and without which medicine may as well be *thrown to the dogs* as given to a sick horse. . . . The author . . . still adheres to those opinions promulgated in former works regarding the vile practice of bloodletting, and the use of agents that are known to depress the vital prin-

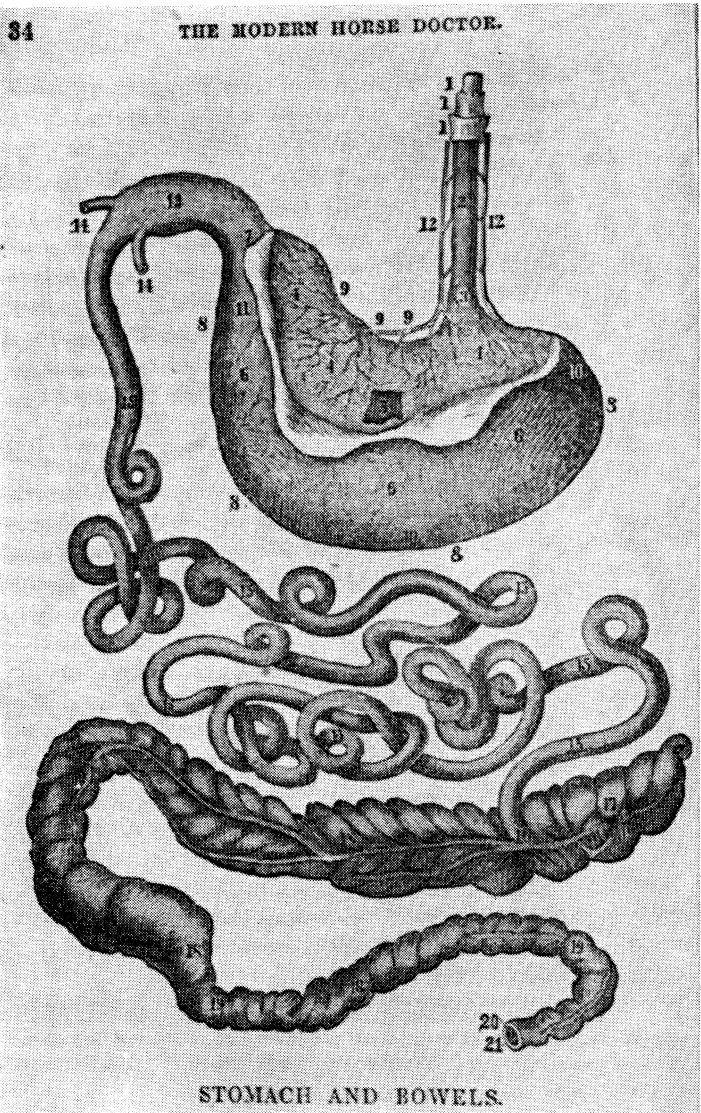


Illustration from Dadd's *Modern Horse Doctor*, from Snape's *Anatomy of an Horse* (1683), in turn from Ruini's classic work (1598).

ciple. . . . Some change has, however, taken place in the author's views regarding the several medical sects. He was formerly somewhat of a specialist, wedded to one particular system of practice; he now practices without regard to sect, — *ecclectically*, — selecting from the various systems those means and agents best calculated to aid, foster, and perpetuate the physiological state.

Dadd also changed his mind on the utility of the study of pathology and the other basic sciences in acquiring an adequate knowledge of the veterinary art. He lists the qualifications for human practice and states:

there is a greater need of preliminary education and tact on the part of those who undertake to prescribe for brutes. . . . It is useless, therefore, to suppose that the veterinary art can be acquired at the forge, plough, or in the stable . . . every one to his own trade.

While this work has all the faults necessarily inherent in the "do-it-yourself" type of offering, Dadd at least does not pretend that it is a substitute for a qualified veterinarian if one is available. The obvious fact is, of course, that very few such were available.

From the very beginning, Dadd's *Horse Doctor* shows that it is written as a "native" production, and from experience. The first condition mentioned, that of "stomach staggers," he says, "is a disease very prevalent in this section of the United States," and he gives reports of cases occurring in Boston. His descriptions are replete with such phrases as, "We have seen some benefit derived from the daily use of an antispasmodic draught," (for "vertigo," but the symptoms given are those of "sleeping sickness"). On "concussion of the brain," he says, "a very few cases have come to our knowledge during nine years' residence in Massachusetts."

"Pink eye and Horse ail," he says should be termed *influenza*, and he accurately differentiates this from catarrh and strangles. Concerning influenza, he states:

It is a notorious fact that there is no disease to which horses in this country are subject that

has opened so wide a field for empiricism as this. Every man has his favorite remedy, and often applies it to his own loss, because he thinks it beneath his dignity to employ a physician to treat what horse dealers consider a simple disease.

Segregation of animals with contagious diseases was not mentioned in the *Cattle Doctor*; on strangles in horses Dadd says:

The disease is set down by *authorities* as non-contagious. . . . We always take the precaution to separate the patient from healthy animals, and would recommend this as a general rule in all catarrhal affections.

The Benefit of Veterinary Skill

On "bleeding from the nose," Dadd states:

When the blood appears frothy and of a dirty color, issuing from one nostril only, the breath being fetid . . . the owner had better consult a veterinary suregon, for the horse is probably, or will be, the subject of glanders . . . [but] it is a notorious fact, that many valuable horses in this country, are yearly sacrificed at the shrine of ignorance; having been pronounced by their owners as glandered, simply because they have a discharge from the nostrils. . . . A horse should not be condemned until he has had the benefit of veterinary skill.

The latter statement, taken out of context, could be taken as derogatory to the veterinary profession, but presumably Dadd means that the horse should be condemned only after diagnosis of glanders by a veterinarian. However, he does suggest that treatment might be of some avail, and he does not mention the communicability of glanders to man.

Dadd frequently alludes to the necessity of professional veterinary attention; for example: "urinary calculi can only be removed by a skilful veterinary surgeon." And while:

thick urine is at times an evil that only exists in the imagination of the groom . . . it may be proper, in all cases where the horse passes, for any length of time, urine that appears to be albuminous, for the owner to consult a veterinary surgeon.

On “profuse staling,” so-called diabetes of horses, Dadd says he “has long since, and continues, to discountenance any unnecessary medication, believing it is the duty of physician to know when to do nothing.” But for “suppression” of urine, “the safest plan will be to consult a veterinary surgeon.”

Indigestion, Dadd says:

is the great national disease of the United States; both men and horses alike its victims, it lies at the bottom of almost every disease to which both are subject. . . . In nine cases out of ten, colic is the result of impaired digestive organs.

Concerning “lampas,” he says that so long as horse owners believe it to be a disease:

and men can be found to “burn it out,” as it is sometimes termed, just so long will the error exist, and the barbarism continue. . . . The most that we would ever do . . . is to wash the mouth with a weak solution of alum.

On this matter of burning the engorged palatal ridges, Dadd quotes Percivall, who states:

The horse continues to be persecuted for it, even by some *professional* men, as well as farriers. The practice is a stigma upon our national character, and a disgrace to the professors of veterinary science.

“Bishoping” a horse’s teeth to make him appear younger, Dadd terms “a species of imposition so reprehensible that all honest horse dealers have set their faces against it, and we are not aware that it is to any extent practised here.” He states that the operation is so called “from the name of the scoundrel who invented it.”

The section on lamenesses shows that Dadd had some practical acquaintance with these problems. He is harsh on the group of quacks who performed neurotomies for every species of lameness, and who gave the operation a bad reputation:

the fault of those who a few years ago went about from one place to another, operating without the requisite skill necessary . . . some of the animals thus operated on were the sub-

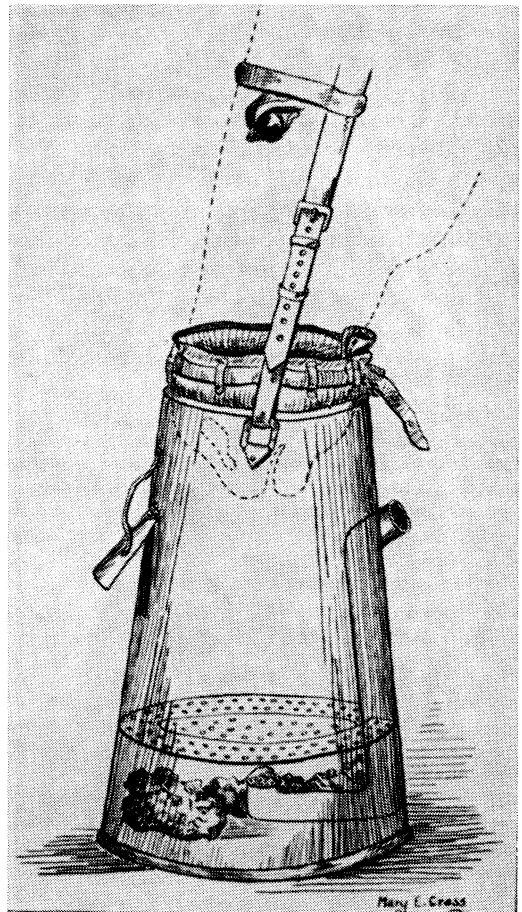
jects of acute laminitis — a form of disease that no regular veterinarian would ever think of relieving by neurotomy.

Dadd preferred to operate only as a last resort — for incurable lameness.

Etherization for Animals

Concerning neurotomy, Dadd states:

We recommend that, in all operations of this kind, the subject be etherized, not only in view of preventing pain, but that we may, in the absence of all struggling on the part of our



A number of devices for administering ether or chloroform to horses were designed after 1850, but Dadd and the few other American practitioners who used anesthesia preferred a simple sponge. Drawn from contemporary descriptions by Mary Ellen Haggerty.

patient, perform the operation satisfactorily, and in much less time after etherization has taken place than otherwise. So soon as the patient is under the influence of that valuable agent, we have nothing to fear from his struggles, provided we have the assistance of one experienced to administer it. We generally use a mixture of chloroform and chloric ether in our operations, and consider it far preferable so far as the life of the patient is concerned, to pure chloroform.

Dadd used a large sponge, and states: "In all cases of etherization at the Massachusetts Hospital, a simple sponge is used. The complicated and expensive breathing machines are dispensed with."

Dadd's proximity to the birthplace of surgical anesthesia probably was a factor in his adopting the practice, although it would have appealed to him had he had only a remote acquaintance with it. From his statement it would appear that he used anesthesia in all major operations—probably the first to do so in veterinary practice in this country. In 1853 Dadd describes an operation for the removal of two melanotic tumors from below the shoulders of a horse, in which chloroform anesthesia was used, the anesthetic being administered by a physician.

Spavin, says Dadd:

has got to be so common a disease of late, that if a purchaser finds a horse free from blemish of this description, he considers himself fortunate. . . . Some people have an idea that nothing short of firing or blistering can be of any benefit; yet experience has shown that the practice is unsatisfactory. . . . We have succeeded in rendering horses as free from lameness by mild means, as, we think, can ever be accomplished by the scientific, yet barbarous mode of fire and blister. . . . The practice of firing . . . is a barbarism that should have long since been discontinued. We never performed the operation but once, and have ever since been sorry for it. As to blisters, we regard them in the light of a last resort; yet, when applied understandingly, we are not sure that it would be good policy to oppose their use.

The Barbarian

Ringbone, Dadd avers, is torment enough for the horse:

but he must, in addition, be compelled to submit to atrocities unheard of in the history

of human medicine, and for which the veterinary science of the present day furnishes no authority, but, on the other hand, one of universal disapprobation. It has been our painful duty, occasionally, to take in charge subjects that have been most shamefully maltreated for the cure of ringbone. One case, which we can never obliterate from memory, happenend to a poor aged animal, that for a long period had been a faithful slave to his master. For many years he had been the subject of this disease, and his owner had long since given up all hopes of cure, till, at length, one of those exotic, pestiferous specimens of inhumanity, termed *horse doctors*,—but who have no more claim to the title than a maniac or a wild Indian,—undertook, for the sum of five dollars, to cure an hereditary *incurable* disease.

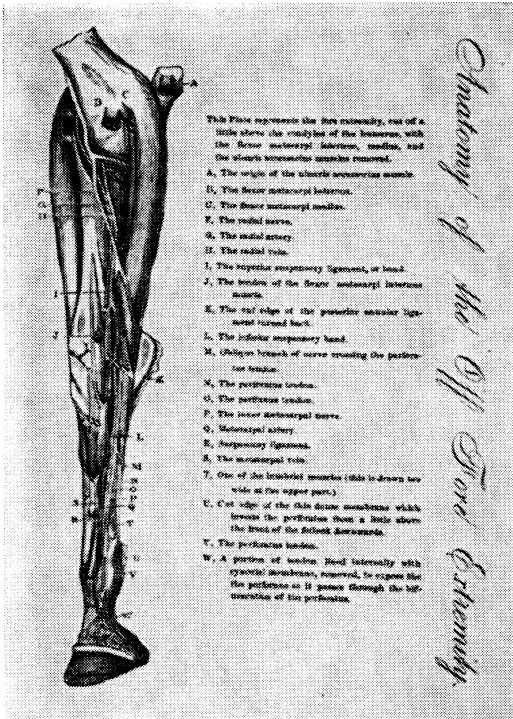
The owner, through the deceptive arguments of the barbarian, consented to an operation, which for cruelty would have outdone an inquisitor. It consisted in cutting through the integuments down to the bones,—for both hind legs were operated on; a red-hot iron was then freely used over the exposed surfaces; some oil of turpentine then being poured into the horrid wounds, it was set on fire; and thus the brutal operation terminated. What a pity the horse had not the power to make his tormentor exchange places with him, and pay him in his own coin! The disease was not benefited by the operation, as any veterinary surgeon, had he seen it, would have foretold; the case being one, not only of common ringbone, but also ankylosis of the pastern and coronet joint.

Sons of these barbarians were still operating two or three decades later: *Horseman's Friend* (!) in 1871 directs for founder: "Bleed four or five gallons from the neck, or until the horse falls . . . and pour boiling lard over the feet."

First in the Field

The *Country Gentleman* for 1857 notes Dadd's *Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse* as "a textbook of the whole subject for use in Agricultural institutions. . . . In this respect it is the first in the field." Later, in a fuller review, it is stated:

Its object is to enable the educated physicians of this country to give advice in the management of horses, and is intended for the use of veterinary surgeons, teachers and students; but we think it will be sought and prove especially valuable to all inquiring and scientific farmers, who feel interested in the study of the horse, but who may not be within reach of good vet-



Dadd's *Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse* (1851), perhaps the most scientific veterinary work produced in America to its time, apparently sold poorly; farriers were not interested, and there was but a handful of educated veterinarians. R. R. Shomer collection

erinary practitioners. Perhaps everyone of our readers may know one or more "horse doctors," as they are commonly termed, and may be aware that in many instances their best guide in the management of sick animals is only blundering guess-work. . . .

Those who are acquainted with the writings of Dr. Dadd, are aware that he takes a very strong ground against some of the older practices . . . and although in some cases he may carry his points rather far. . . . We are quite willing that his mild, cautious and humane treatment may displace some of the former bold and headlong practices.

The book included "a very useful dictionary of veterinary science, of more than sixty pages, worth of itself the whole price of the volume." (\$4.00 with colored plates; \$2.00 uncolored.)

AMERICAN VETERINARY JOURNAL

The *American Veterinary Journal*, with Dadd as editor and publisher, began pub-

lication in September, 1851, and ran until October, 1852, when Dadd stated:

All that prevented the journal's continuing its monthly visit was — lack of time; our professional engagements being such as to preclude the possibility of performing any longer the double duty of editor and publisher. Hence the journal was laid on the shelf.

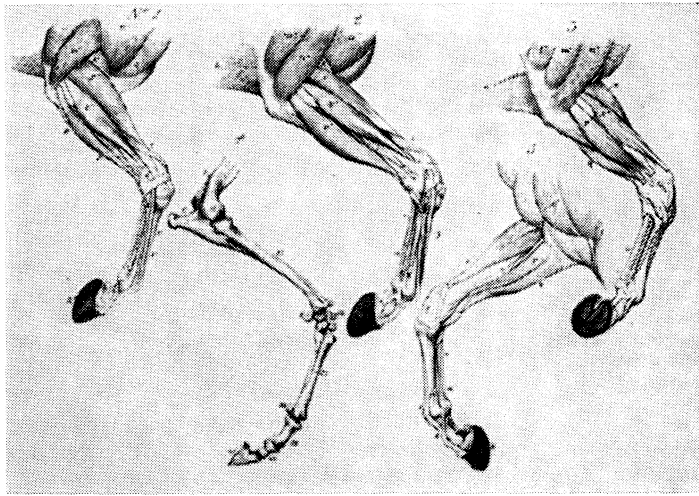
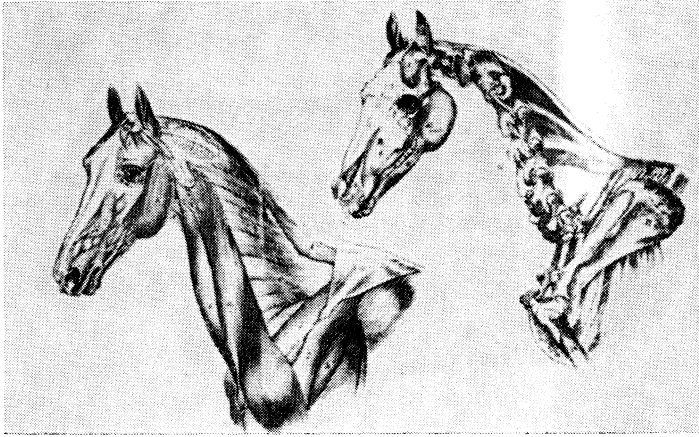
Publication was resumed in October, 1855, with Dadd as editor and proprietor, and S. N. Thompson as publisher. This venture lasted until March, 1859, when publication ceased for very practical reasons; Dadd says:

The only explanation I have to offer is, that in consequence of remissness on the part of subscribers for the past two years, my pocket-book is the seat of a very severe attack of dyspepsia, which threatens to confine me and my family to a diet of shorts.

Dadd's announced objective was a circulation of 20,000 copies, later raised to 50,000, but it appears doubtful that it ever much exceeded 1,000, and perhaps not all these paid for.

As the first venture of its kind in America — Carver's ill-fated *Farriers' Magazine* of 1818 hardly qualifying as a contender — Dadd's journal is worthy of notice at considerable length. What is surprising is that the venture lasted as long as it did, for it seems unlikely that it ever paid its own way. The principal mode of obtaining subscriptions was the hope that veterinarians and other subscribers would promote it personally — a common practice with agricultural journals, but these had a much larger field to draw from. And being written for both lay and professional readers, it was in some respects "neither flesh nor fowl," but it is evident that a purely professional journal would not have lasted even this long. In 1856 Dadd states:

At this early period in the history of American Veterinary Science it is a matter of impossibility to secure sufficient patronage for the support of a *purely* veterinary periodical. The fact is, that out of the whole of the subscribers now on our list there are only about fifty!



By comparison with those from other American works of the time, the illustrations from Dadd's *Anatomy* (from Blaine's *Outlines of the Veterinary Art* [London, 1802]), were both technically and artistically excellent. R. R. Shomer collection

directly interested in the promulgation of the principles of veterinary science.

Except for Dadd and his faithful coterie of veterinarians who did write for the *Journal*, much of the material was taken from other papers — a common practice of practically all periodicals of the time. A close examination of the *Journal* suggests that it could have served its intended purpose; that it did not is evidence that it was ahead of its time.

Veterinary Education

One use of the *Journal* was as an agency to promote veterinary education, especially in view of the fact that the Boston Veterinary Institute was in operation during the

later period of publication. However, one might wish more concerning this school had been put in the journal. In January, 1856, the address of D. D. Slade, M. D., president, "delivered on the occasion of the commencement of the Boston Veterinary Institute," is given in full.

After giving a concise history of the veterinary art from the earliest times, Slade continues:

It is quite time to put veterinary medicine upon the basis which it so justly merits. We have thus far depended upon those who have come to us from foreign lands for all the science and skill which we could command; let us now do all in our power to build up a school for ourselves, whereby we may supply the country which offers such an abundant harvest both for fame and pecuniary remuneration to

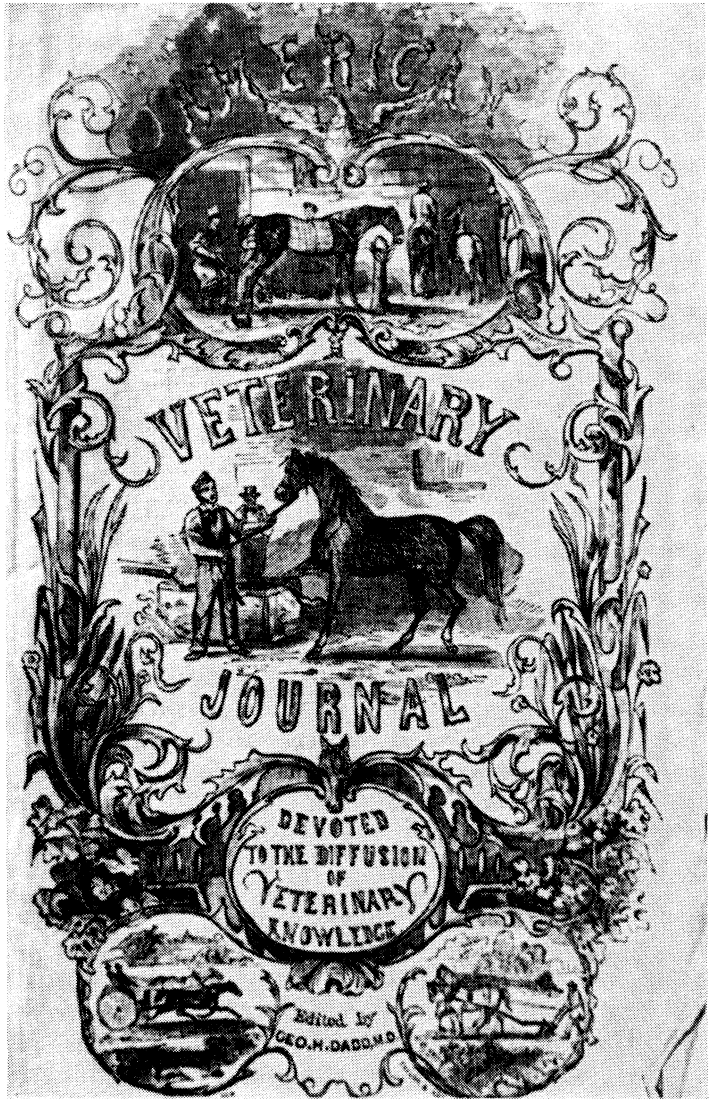
the young man of enterprise and education, as the practice of veterinary medicine upon scientific principles. . . . It is needless to suppose that any one may do without thorough education, veterinary medicine requires diligent preparation and long study, and so far from its being beneath the notice of an educated and refined man, it is a study worthy of the best and highest talents.

Slade states that to prepare himself for his position: "a few months were spent by myself at Alfort."

In March, 1856, there appears an extract from the "President's Message," presum-

ably that of Dr. D. D. Slade on the need for veterinary education:

No citizen of our country should permit himself to forget, that the inferior orders of creation are entitled to consideration and mercy; they constitute a part of the wealth of the nation, they are subject to the same skill in treatment of their maladies that apply to their "lord and master." Therefore, in view of the ignorance which now prevails in all that pertains to the fundamental principles of Veterinary science, I conjure you to aid and foster it. The emergency appeals to the citizens of every State, and I consider it an imperative duty to



Dadd's *American Veterinary Journal* (1851–1852; 1855–1859) was the first serious attempt at veterinary journalism in this country, but it probably never paid its own way, and its publication was suspended when Dadd moved westward. R. R. Shomer collection

recommend Congress to establish a National Veterinary College, and appropriate, from the National funds, a sufficient sum of money to endow an Institution where the principles of Veterinary Science shall be taught.

In May, 1856, Dadd acknowledges receipt of "A Plea for the establishment of Veterinary Colleges in the United States," a lecture delivered before the State Agricultural Society of Pennsylvania by James Bryan, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the Philadelphia College of Medicine. Dadd states:

It is refreshing to know that amidst the darkness that at present prevails on Veterinary Science, there are a few choice spirits laboring for its advancement; and still more gratifying is it to know that the members of our sister science — the noblest calling that ever man embarked in — are raising their voices and using their influence to arouse the community to a sense of duty which they owe to the inferior orders of Creation.

Dr. Bryan comes to the rescue, as an advocate for those "bereft of speech," and in so doing he has broken the spell, which, with a few exceptions, has hitherto operated to deter his professional brethren from lending their powerful aid and influence for the advancement of veterinary science. We sincerely hope that the members of a *liberal* profession will no longer stand aloof, nor give our science the cold shoulder; but, like Dr. B., and others that we might name, engage and interest themselves in that which has contributed greatly to advance a knowledge of human surgery.

Horse Influenza

Much of the *American Veterinary Journal* for 1856 is occupied with items of more general agricultural interest than strictly veterinary reports. This is in accord with Dadd's stated policy of catering to the farmer as well as the veterinarian. Undoubtedly the material of greatest veterinary interest — then as well as now — is a series of articles on "distemper" in horses. The outbreak of 1872 is frequently considered the first major occurrence of this epizootic, but the *Journal* leaves no doubt that the outbreak of 1855–1856 was of epizootic proportions. In January, 1856, Dadd states:

There is a disease now prevailing among horses in this State, which in stable language passes under the familiar terms, *horse-ail*, *pink-eye*, *distemper*, &c. . . . In some localities it spreads after the manner of epizootic, or sporadic affection; appearing here and there in certain localities, with greater or less intensity; sometimes singling out half a dozen horses, out of a stable of twenty; at other times . . . it runs through a whole stable. . . . At the present time there are a great number of truck horses laid up with this affection.

Dadd gives a detailed account of the disease, which he prefers to call influenza, or in its last stages, typhus.

In February, M. A. Cuming reports the disease from St. John, New Brunswick, and says it has:

for some time been prevailing here, and . . . I have every reason to think it is of an epidemic form . . . one of the most insidious, if not the most dangerous, to which animal life is subject.

Dadd states:

I am informed that in the State of New York, the disease has assumed a most malignant type, and the subjects die in the course of a few hours, notwithstanding the efforts of the most experienced surgeons . . . [and later] the veterinary surgeons of England have hitherto maintained a remarkable silence on the subject . . . and so late as the year 1850 . . . in London very little is known about such disease.

In the March issue he reprinted a long article on the disease translated from the French by William Percival, and in April, Dadd acknowledges a letter from Isaiah Michener, of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to the effect that:

influenza has prevailed in his locality since the first of September, and up to the present period; and that he has been remarkably successful in the treatment of the same.

Who's Who

An analysis of the contributors of original articles to the *American Veterinary Journal* shows that a fair number of practitioners actually did write for the *Journal*. Admittedly a large part of the

space was occupied by material taken from other journals, and Dadd, Copeman, and the two Woods supplied much of the original material. The professional contributors to this volume included three identified as graduate veterinarians: M. A. Cumming, M.R.C.V.S. of St. John, New Brunswick; John C. Ralston, M.R.C.V.S. of New York; and Albert Borchardt, of Chicago, a graduate of the Dresden school. Those identified as "V.S.," in addition to Dadd, are:

Wm. Somerville, Buffalo, New York
 Isaiah Michener, Bucks Co., Pennsylvania
 Arthur S. Copeman, Utica, New York
 Robert Jennings, Cleveland, Ohio
 Wm. H. Rose, New York, New York
 Jas. Harkness, St. Louis, Missouri
 G. W. Bowler, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Elisha F. Thayer, West Newton, Massachusetts
 Ebenezer T. Wood, Northampton, Massachusetts
 Charles M. Wood, Boston, Massachusetts
 Robert Wood, Lowell, Massachusetts
 W. Pierce, Ravenna, Ohio
 Charles Scrutton, New Bedford, Massachusetts

In another category are Dr. Jewett, of Palmyra, Maine; Dr. B. Way, of Seymour, Connecticut; and C. D. Bent. Three identified as physicians also contributed: D. D. Slade, M. D., president of the Boston Veterinary Institute; Thomas W. Gordon, M. D., of Georgetown, Ohio; and Ben Munroe, M. D., Woodford, Kentucky.

Other practitioners mentioned by name are the officers of the American Veterinary Association of Philadelphia: John Scott, M.R.C.V.S.; W. W. Fraley, V. S.; R. Evans, V. S.; and A. Tegtmeier, V. S.; all of Philadelphia; and E. Coots, V. S., of West Chester, Pennsylvania. C. M. Wood states that the following practitioners in New York were all graduates of the London school: Grice, Curtis, Copeman(?), Lockhart, Wills, and Pilgrim.

Some inkling of the impending fate of the *American Veterinary Journal* can be gathered from the list of contributors to volume three in 1858, and the three issues of volume four in 1859. Of the group ap-

pearing in volume one, only Copeman, C. M. Wood, R. Wood, Jennings, Michener, Pierce, and Gordon contributed in 1858–1859. Additional contributors, apparently all V.S., are: A. T. Wilson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; J. L. Seely, Janesville, Wisconsin; S. B. Stowell, Northampton, Illinois; John Byrne, Antigua, West Indies; and Wm. Beers, Milan, Ohio; as well as a physician, L. S. Nicholson, of Iowa. Also mentioned by name are Dr. F. Hackenberger of Philadelphia, Dr. A. Ferguson of Ohio, Mr. Barton of Antigua, West Indies, and the officers of the Boston Veterinary Association: C. M. Wood, R. Wood, Thayer, Copeman, and Wm. Sanders of Salem, Massachusetts. Several students of the school, listed elsewhere, were also contributors.

The last issue of the *Journal*, March, 1859, is conspicuous for its lack of original articles. Dadd's major contribution is a lecture on the "Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye"; other than case reports, the balance of the issue is made up from borrowings from other journals. It is evident that the sands were running out, and Dadd states: "It may be expedient, ere long, to suspend the publication," and mentions "negotiations now pending" with several Agricultural Colleges, his own students, and his books as reasons:

And to be candid about the matter, this Journal does not command the liberal support which it ought to enjoy. . . . Our opinion is, that a Journal of this kind might be made to pay, only by connecting it with some Agricultural paper.

If any of his readers thought differently, and wished to try it, the *Journal* was for sale. No one thought differently.

One Veterinary Hercules

It is obvious that the *American Veterinary Journal* never had the support, either from contributors or subscribers, that it needed. But, considering the circumstances, Dadd carried the *Journal* along on a surprisingly high level. He has been accused of letting certain unprofessional traits de-

tract from its quality, but it should be kept in mind that professional ethics then and now were not the same. Thus in 1856, the London *Veterinarian* had noted Dadd's *Journal* as a "good omen," but was distressed to receive, from a Boston practitioner, a packet of handbills touting Dadd's patent medicines.

Dadd calls the informer "a contemptible coward" for not disclosing his identity, and hastens to explain:

Public opinion in this country differs very much from that of the Old World in relation to the preparation of horse medicines. *Here*, it is needed, *there*, you need it not.

He states he had begun the manufacture of these medicines in 1847 at the behest of prominent husbandmen, and that they were still prepared under his advice, but:

So soon as a respectable number of *legitimate* practitioners make their appearance, or my own convictions assure me that I am doing wrong, I will immediately abandon the business. . . . The composition of these medicines has never been kept a secret from the profession. . . . In a country where veterinary science hardly has an existence, I am not practising empiricism.

He likens the situation to London having only one graduate veterinarian, for in the United States in 1847:

According to the most reliable authority, there were but *fifteen* certified surgeons in the whole country! One veterinary Hercules to every two millions of inhabitants!

To assure his English friends "there is not a more ardent laborer in this country in the cause of veterinary science," Dadd states:

I have written over three thousand pages of manuscript for our agricultural periodicals, without receiving one cent remuneration; and have delivered a great number of *free* lectures . . . and have always urged . . . the importance of establishing veterinary colleges in this republic. . . . I submit . . . that I am not the vile empiric the sender of these handbills would have you suppose.

On the subject of professional advertising, Dadd later says:

We recommend our subscribers whom expect to get a living in the practice of the veterinary art, to advertise. It pays to advertise. There are a number of veterinary surgeons now practicing in these United States whose fame does not extend beyond the smoke of their own chimneys, simply because they neglect to advertise, and thus fail to inform the public of their whereabouts.

Good Wood

In 1858, C. M. Wood, in writing on "Veterinary Medical Knowledge," deplors the apathy:

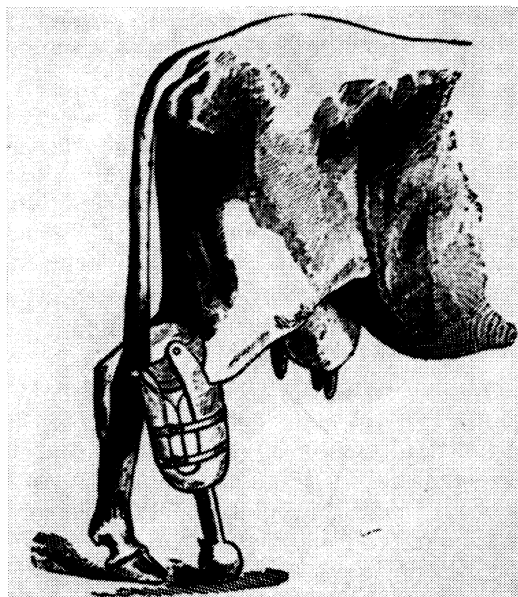
So generally manifested, by the *certified* Veterinary Surgeons of this country, in regard to the diffusion of Veterinary knowledge. . . . They claim the right to remain silent on the subject, unless in the stable, or bar-room. . . . How many of them have ever contributed a single line to a medical journal?

He continues in this vein, and accuses his fellow practitioners of preferring to keep veterinary medicine shrouded in "mystery and ambiguity" in the mistaken belief that they are promoting their selfish ends. While there undoubtedly was some truth in his allegations, this sort of attack could hardly be calculated to win friends, and probably did more harm than good. In arguing for an increasing diffusion of veterinary knowledge, he states:

While the people at large are unadvised of the better practice which science introduces, they will resort to ignorant dabblers as the best practitioners for their animal's diseases. The people must be properly instructed as well as the Veterinarians. And I hold that it is our duty to condemn any practice which is clearly injurious. If the truth is not told, people will suppose that error is truth; and go on inflicting misery, instead of ministering relief. . . . All of us should attend to this matter, and never let a known error appear in print without putting a mark upon it.

Robert Wood, brother of Charles, in writing on "Catarrh in Neat Cattle, alias Horn Ail," comments on the usual absurdities connected with this disease, but adds:

I must confess, however, this is not as frequently the case, now as heretofore, the people generally appreciating more and more the value of our art. . . . Where one animal dies in this



Several apparently successful instances of prosthetic devices being used after amputations were reported from the 1830's, one of the first being for a pig. The operation was most commonly an alternative to fracture reduction. Liautard: *Surgery*

city and vicinity, at this time, there were ten, twelve or fifteen years ago.

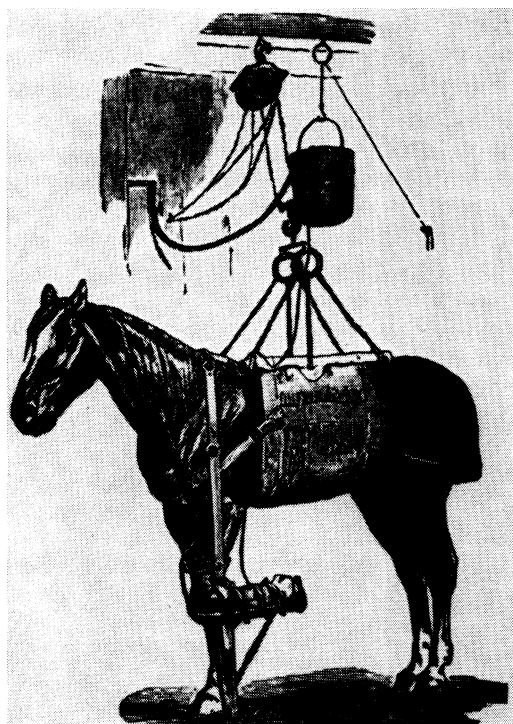
Wood obviously was a progressive practitioner; he mentions using ether anesthesia to castrate several pigs with scrotal hernia, the operations being "perfectly successful, the parts healing by the first intention." Robert Wood, along with C. M. Wood and A. S. Copeman, were listed as "Regular Contributors" to the *Journal* until December, 1858, and all three were members of the faculty of the Boston Veterinary Institute. The last communication by Robert Wood, however, appears in the March issue. In the April issue there is a report of a case of colic by E. F. Ripley, "Student with Dr. Robert Wood," which in the absence of his mentor the student apparently treated successfully.

C. M. Wood, despite his protestations over the failure of veterinarians to write, lasted only a little longer as a contributor to the *Journal*. In a report of several cases of fractures in horses, he mentions that a Boston paper had asked, "Is there no de-

vice in modern surgery to prevent a horse being killed because he has a broken limb?" and suggests the same means are applicable to man and horses. Wood states: "To this last remark I cannot assent . . . in no case have I ever been successful." He reports three cases of tibial fracture, one each of the ulna and humerus, two of the spine and one of the femur, all obviously beyond aid.

In May he writes a letter to the editor of the *Journal* asking for simpler terminology in veterinary writing:

I always use scientific terms with reluctance; and I truly wish that all writers would abandon them altogether. . . . Some of my contributions to your *Journal*, have given offence to some of my "professional brethren". . . . Why do they not fill a page of the *Veterinary Journal*?"



With the use of an apparatus with limb support and slings for fractures below the knee, the prognosis for many metacarpal fractures so handled was considered favorable. Dadd reported a number of successes with simple splints and casts. Liautard: *Surgery*

This is his last communication. Curiously enough, he had earlier identified himself as "V.S.", or as "Veterinary Surgeon," but in his two articles on fractures he adds "M.D."

Concerning C. M. Wood, Dadd had stated in 1856:

Dr. Wood . . . is one of the Pilgrim pioneers of veterinary science in Massachusetts; he has buffeted the rude shock of popular prejudice in regard to all that pertains to what is commonly denominated "*horse doctoring*," until reason and science have triumphed over ignorance and quackery; and now, through his own industry and perservance, stands at the head of our profession.

Dadd added a footnote on *Horse Doctoring*, saying: "Vulgar epithets of this character should never be used to designate the science of veterinary medicine." Yet, Dadd's most widely circulated work was his *Modern Horse Doctor*, and in this work he had spoken slurringly of veterinarians as the "lords of pukes and purges."

Arthur S. Copeman, Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the Boston Veterinary Institute, was a faithful contributor up to the time his name was dropped; thirteen of his articles appear in 1858, most of them on the actions of drugs. In writing on colic he states, "There is much dogmatism and quackery both within and beyond the profession concerning this disease." In speaking of those who prescribe "hen's dung or chicken's guts," he says their faith is just as strong as that of "the regular Vet's." C. M. Wood takes a misstep farther by speaking of certified "*Vets*" (i.e., instead of Vet's) in his articles on "Veterinary Medical Knowledge."

The September issue carries an address on "History of Veterinary Science," made by Copeman before the Medical Association of Utica, which had given him an "honorary seat" in that society. In comparing human and animal medicine, he says:

If . . . we have greater difficulties to contend with and overcome, a more difficult master to please, and are expected to be perfect in all these duties, I contend that in a

scientific, a meritorious and useful point of view, the veterinary profession *per se* is not unworthy to take its stand along side that of the human.

His last communication to the *Journal* is also an address given before the Utica Medical Club on "Animal Heat and Motion." Of principal interest is his statement that he had personally "neurotomed more than fifty horses."

Advocate of Anesthesia

Among references to the use of anesthesia in the *American Veterinary Journal* in 1856, Dadd states: "Ether is a very excellent remedy in spasmodic colic . . . it will generally mitigate abdominal pain, and tranquilize the nervous system." (The latter phrase has a modern ring!) For colic Dadd employed an ether and chloroform mixture, administered by an inhaler composed of "an old sheet and a sponge," to the point of complete anesthesia. In addition to making the patient more manageable, and reducing the likelihood of the animal's damaging itself, Dadd considered that the anesthesia had a direct beneficial effect upon the course of the disease. In 1858 he used ether "to diminish the reflex excitability of the nervous system," in a case of puerpural convulsions in a cow.

In the same year Robert Jennings reports on "Experiments with Chloroform and Chloric Ether in Veterinary Surgery." He mentions several cases in the practices of John Scott and W. W. Fraley in which chloroform was used to anesthetize horses with fractured limbs, whereupon some experimental surgery was performed, and the horses destroyed. In another instance he assisted G. W. Bowler in an operation for umbilical hernia, and one for removal of a tumor, both under chloroform. In his own practice he had used chloroform anesthesia in removing a tumor, and ether for neurotomy, noting: "Not having an assistant in this case, I found it extremely difficult to administer the anesthetic, and operate myself." This article indicates that a number of practitioners, not necessarily

under the influence of Dadd, were using anesthesia at this early date.

In writing on the "Caesarean Operation on Sows," in 1858, Dadd states:

Humanity would suggest that the subject be etherized, when performing so formidable an operation, yet our experience in the use of anesthetic agents on swine, will not warrant us in recommending its universal application.

In the same year, Robert Wood used ether in operating for scrotal hernia in pigs, noting: "Of all the animals I have etherized, the pig is the most susceptible and the quickest brought under its influence."

In 1859 Dadd reports using equal parts of chloroform and ether, which "rendered the animal completely insensible to pain," in removing a tumor from the penis of a horse. As a matter of passing interest, Jennings, in his book on *The Horse and His Diseases* (1860), states that for amputation of the penis all that is required is "one swift bold stroke of a sharp knife." This in spite of his opinion that "In severe operations, humanity dictates the use of some anesthetic agent to render the animal insensible to pain." At best, Jennings' amputation would seem calculated to leave a bloody stump. Dadd ligated the arteries.

In 1860, the editor of the *American Agriculturalist* states:

Dr. Dadd, V.S., just informs us that he has recently performed the novel operation of spaying a mare. . . . We believe this is the first case of the kind in this country, if indeed it is not the first one ever tried . . . it has been generally supposed that an operation of the kind would prove fatal. The animal was under the influence of sulphuric ether, and the operation proves entirely successful, ten days having elapsed since it was performed. The object to be attained in this particular case, was to render the mare more docile, as she had heretofore been nearly unmanageable during her periods of heat. Physiologists are of opinion that removing the ovaries, if successfully performed, will render the animal gentle and mild.

Another innovation, that of blood transfusion in the horse, is reported in the 1858 *Journal*, in an article taken from the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*. In this, James Farrell, V. S., records

several successful cases of direct transfusion from healthy to diseased horses, with improvement in the latter. He states:

Whatever obstacles and objections there may be to its performance in the human subject, there are none to prevent its becoming a most valuable agent in Veterinary science.

In commenting on this, Dadd mentions the unfavorable results of transfusion shortly after Harvey's work on the circulation of the blood, but states:

We can conceive, however, of cases which might occur, when, for example, a horse has lost a large quantity of blood accidentally, to warrant us in resorting to *transfusion*; and if any of our Veterinary friends are disposed to make experiments of this kind, we urge them to do so.

However, it does not appear that Dadd, or many of his "veterinary friends" attempted the experiment. Robert McClure apparently did use blood from healthy horses in treating influenza in 1863.

In 1856 Dadd noted the action of the New York Legislature on "A bill to protect the people of the City of New York against frauds by the adulteration of milk, and to provide for the inspection of milk." This provided for the appointment of six milk inspectors:

whose duty it shall be to keep a list of all dealers in milk, and examine the quality, and report to the City Inspector all cases of adulteration or selling milk of diseased cows.

And in reprinting an extract from "our enterprising contemporary, Frank Leslie," on the "swill-milk business" in New York City, Dadd states in 1858:

By the vigorous efforts which Mr. Leslie has made to exhibit this pernicious business in all its revolting features, and to utterly annihilate it in the future, he has drawn upon himself and his employees the malevolent rage of all the swill-milk dealers. . . . Our city children, who are brought up or largely fed on purchased milk, are poisoned and put to death.

Items of Interest

Among some of the items of interest reported by Dadd from his own practice in

1858 are the use of potassium iodide, both internally and externally, for indurated udders of cattle, and the use of imported milking tubes for teat obstructions; a prescription of beef steak and strychnine “. . . to protect sheep from the ravages of the canine species”; iodine ointment to reduce the size of enlarged thyroid glands; a flexor tenotomy for “sprung knee”; successful reduction of a fractured radius in a heifer, and of the first phalanx of a horse; and relief of colic by enterotomy. Of incidental interest is his statement: “The term *bloat* has long been discarded by Veterinarians.” And in response to the request of a Texan, who says, “Many large stock owners could each amply support a surgeon on the profits of the animals saved in the course of a year,” Dadd replies:

We cannot spare a single qualified practitioner from this region, for all find ample employment, and there is plenty of room for more.

Also of interest is a note appended to a communication on hog cholera by Thomas W. Gordon, M.D., of Ohio, who states:

We have men among us who think paying any attention to the lower animals, decidedly out of taste, and perhaps out of caste, for a physician . . . but my motive in life has been, and is, to do all I can to ameliorate the condition of my fellow men, and when I can save their property, never to neglect what is to me a duty.

The prescription of copperas, saltpetre and ginger:

Has undoubtedly been the means of saving very many hogs in this section of the country, but I do not suppose it, or any other remedy, will save all that are affected.

The Journal in Retrospect

Despite the generally unfavorable appraisal of Dadd and his *American Veterinary Journal* given by Merillat and Campbell, Dadd is admitted to be:

the most facile American veterinary writer of the nineteenth century. His grammar was good, his diction splendid and the range of subjects

upon which he wrote, extensive. . . . His books were well written and authoritative.

And concerning the Journal:

This publication derives its historical importance, which is considerable, solely from the fact that it was the only one in its field at the time. . . . His [Dadd's] articles in the *American Veterinary Journal* seldom dealt with strictly veterinary matters. . . . Seldom indeed did he deal with practical subjects of the veterinary clinic. . . . No cause for the discontinuance of the publication of this journal is given in its pages . . . [but] from all the evidence, one can say the *American Veterinary Journal* died because it had the wrong editor and did not deserve to live.

The latter estimate apparently is based in part on the statement of C. M. Wood in the *Veterinarian* (London) for September, 1859.

Its publication [the *Journal*] was recently suspended for want of patronage. The editor has often stated to some of us its contents were too scientific for this country and that he had to substitute matter of a more simple kind as being he more acceptable to his readers. Thus we think he has aided in the dissemination of error rather than truth, and very soon after what he called the “too scientific contributions” were discontinued, the journal itself collapsed. [But Wood himself had used scientific terms “with reluctance.”]

Merillat and Campbell, however, appear to have been unaware of the three issues of the *Journal* that appeared in 1859; in the last issue (March), Dadd explains:

in consequence of remissiveness on the part of subscribers for the past two years, my pocket-book is the seat of a very severe dyspepsia. . . . It may be expedient, ere long, to suspend the publication. . . . To be candid about the matter, this Journal does not command the liberal support which it ought to enjoy.

Although he was given to hyperbole, Dadd's statement that fewer than 50 of his subscribers were veterinary practitioners is probably close to the facts. Two decades later, Alexandre Liautard, in reporting on the status of the *American Veterinary Review*, states that in March, 1877 there was a deficit of \$90 on the first issue (January, 1877): 183 copies had been distributed, 105

paid for. In 1880 the circulation appears to have been under 250, at which time production costs were barely being met. By this time there were probably some 1,500 or more practitioners in the United States. Thus it might be argued that Dadd was closer to being a realist than his critic and colleague, Wood. The same argument, that there was little of clinical veterinary medicine in the early volumes, could be leveled against the *American Veterinary Review*; many of its pages, in fact, were reprinted from foreign journals. As Dadd himself stated, concerning his *Journal*:

At this early period in the history of American Veterinary Science it is a matter of impossibility to secure sufficient patronage for the support of a *purely* veterinary periodical.

That his hybrid production survived as long as it did is primarily a tribute to Dadd's tenacity.

GEORGE DADD, VETERINARY EDUCATOR

Dadd's interest in veterinary education spans his entire career, but it might be said that he labored in this field largely to little avail. His efforts on behalf of the Boston Veterinary Institute and his several private enterprises, however, should be considered in some detail inasmuch as they were truly pioneering moves toward a veterinary educational system in America. Those who have been most disparaging of Dadd as an educator have, perhaps, not been as fully acquainted with his work as the scattered data would permit, once assembled.

Little, other than what can be gleaned from the *American Veterinary Journal*, seems to be a matter of record concerning the Boston Veterinary Institute, including Dadd's connection with it. One thing is certain: Dadd's interest, if not actual engagement, in veterinary education antedates the Institute by several years. His *Advocate of Veterinary Reform* (1850) contains a letter, in response to an inquiry from Dadd, written by Henry Clay in 1849:

There is no department in the medical world in which there is such a lamentable want of

knowledge as that of the proper treatment of horses and cattle. Whoever shall supply this deficiency ought to be regarded as a great benefactor, and I shall be very glad if your exertions entitle you to that merit.

In November, 1851, Dadd notified readers of the *American Veterinary Journal*:

The undersigned is now prepared to receive a limited number of pupils, with a view of instructing them to practice, on scientific principles, the veterinary art. . . . Let a number of high minded, honorable and temperate men be qualified to practice this art, and they will not only insure themselves a handsome income, but also rescue our domestic animals from a barbarous system of medication. Applications must be made to George H. Dadd, M.D. No. 26 N. Bennett Street, Boston, Mass.

Evidently the response was not overwhelming, for in the *Journal* for August, 1852, he proposed petitioning the Massachusetts legislature for a charter incorporating:

The Boston Veterinary College of Surgeons . . . for the instruction of young men in all that pertains to the veterinary science, that they may be qualified both theoretically and practically, for the practice of a benevolent profession.

In 1854 the editor of the *Michigan Farmer* published some remarks on veterinary education contained in a private letter from Dadd, urging some public benefactor:

to use his influence and purse for the purpose of endowing veterinary schools, so that our domestic animals may have the benefits of scientific, veterinary medication.

Dadd continues:

If you happen to know of an individual desirous of qualifying himself for a successful campaign against ignorance and quackery, send him on this way, I have just commenced a veterinary school, which I hope may be the means of enabling some of our young men to tilt a lance with our elders of the Old World.

While some sources give 1854 as the year the Boston Veterinary Institute was founded, the *American Farmer* for August, 1855, states that its charter was obtained in

May of that year. The *Prairie Farmer* in 1855 notes:

The Massachusetts Legislature has just incorporated the Boston Veterinary Institute, investing it with University powers, to confer degrees, etc., and to hold property to the amount of \$25,000. Dr. Dadd is undoubtedly at the bottom of this movement.

While it is Dadd whose name is irrevocably linked to the school, the charter was obtained by D. D. Slade, a Boston physician, who served as president of the new institution, with Dadd and the two Woods as faculty.

The Boston Veterinary Institute

With regard to the Boston school, Merilatt and Campbell state:

In some way the impression has come about that Dadd established and conducted the Boston Veterinary Institute. He tells us himself that he had nothing to do with its management. Wood [C. M.] was, apparently, the real power behind it. He appears to have wearied of refusing the importunities of Dadd and others to admit uneducated students and to give advanced standing to practitioners because of long practice. At any rate he withdrew, and thereupon the school failed.

It is also stated: "Wood was a profound scholar, self-taught as far as veterinary science was concerned." His scholarliness however, would seem open to question in light of his attitude toward scientific terminology: "I always use scientific terms with reluctance." Moreover, the facts concerning the failure of the school seem to be more elusive than suggested above. While it is true that two terms appear to have been insisted upon to the end, Dadd obtained several students for himself — perhaps with the lure of a single term — after the school had closed for lack of students. And while Dadd may not have been the prime mover for the Boston Veterinary Institute, it would appear that he had supplied much of the momentum to keep it going as long as it did.

It is evident from Slade's "commencement" address (at the opening of the Boston Veterinary Institute) that the school

opened in the fall of 1855; Slade resigned in 1857 and was replaced by the Hon. Moses Newell, who died in April, 1858. At this time Dadd was listed as Dean and Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; C. M. Wood as Professor of Theory and Practice; Robert Wood as Professor of Cattle Pathology; and A. S. Copeman as Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

Slade's opening address was given in full in the January, 1856 issue of the *American Veterinary Journal*; he states:

This day witnesses with us the commencement of a new era in the cause of science and humanity — the foundation of a Veterinary College. . . . It is difficult to understand, neither shall I attempt to explain, why we, as a people, have so long shown such apathy in regard to veterinary science. . . . All that we can offer in justification of this long neglect, is, that we have but followed in the footsteps of older, and perhaps, wiser nations. In Great Britain, for example, it is only at a comparatively recent period, that veterinary medicine has been recognized among the liberal arts, and the profession and practice regarded as by no means incompatible with the dignity of a man of education. We ourselves have, however, now awakened to a sense of the importance of a proper diffusion of a knowledge on this subject, and we should earnestly hope that the establishment of this College may be speedily followed by others in our sister States, which may every year send forth men who will add dignity and importance to the art.

Star of Veterinary Science

Among the articles written by Dadd for his *Journal* are a number of lectures given at the Boston Veterinary Institute, or later at his own school. These show evidence of Dadd's being an interesting lecturer, tolerant of the opinions of others — unless they differed with him on the matter of humane and rational treatment. As in his other writings, these demonstrate a broad and varied experience, and an ability for incisive expression. In terminating what he terms "a practical lecture on the eye," he expounds at some length on his philosophy of veterinary education:

I prefer to deal in practice . . . you may go about it like competent workmen in any other

Advertisements for the Boston Veterinary Institute and the Eclectic College of Medicine indicate that the caliber of medical instruction at some schools was about on a par with that offered by the one existing veterinary school. R. R. Shomer collection

department of science or art; not professing to know all that can be known, nor under-estimating your own skill and knowledge, but realizing that you are capable of performing the ordinary duties, of physician and samaritan to the equine and bovine patients that shall be placed under your charge as other men of riper years and longer experience, whose education, perhaps, savors too much of veterinary orthodoxy—rich in *theory*, but poverty-struck in *facts*.

As I understand the subject, your business and mine is, to qualify ourselves for every-day practice; to be able to meet the exigencies of any and every case that may come under our observation and management. . . . Veterinary science, in this country, is a novel, and I might add—so far as my experience bears upon the subject—an unpopular experiment. There are laurels for us to gain; American husbandmen

THE BOSTON VETERINARY INSTITUTE.

Incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts, May 2nd, 1866.

The fourth session of this Institution will commence on TUESDAY, the 1st day of NOVEMBER, 1888, and continue sixteen weeks.

The object contemplated by the Founders and Professors of this School, is to furnish ample instruction to persons desirous of qualifying themselves for the duties of Veterinary Surgeons.

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY.

GEORGE H. DADD, V. S., *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*
CHARLES M. WOOD, V. S., *Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery.*

ROBERT WOOD, V. S., *Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine on Acute Cases.*

ARTHUR COTTEMAN, V. S., *Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.*

FEE.

For the Biennial Course of Lectures \$100 00

Matriculation, (paid once only,) 5 00

Graduation 25 00

The usual course of Lectures will be delivered by the Professors, and each of them once a week will hold an examination upon subjects previously indicated. This arrangement is calculated to promote a regular and systematic course of instruction.

The Faculty are in possession of the most extensive and valuable collection of morbid material, anatomical specimens, diagrams, &c., to be found in this country. They are also in possession of two articulated skeletons of the horse, one of the cow, and have the use of two French models; the latter were imported from France at a cost of over one thousand dollars. Hence the facilities for instruction in this Institution are very superior.

For further information address,

GEORGE H. DADD, V. S., *Dean of the Faculty.*

The Eclectic College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE WINTER SESSION of 1888-9 will commence on the 13th of OCTOBER, and continue sixteen weeks. A full and thorough course of Lectures will be given, occupying six or seven hours daily, with good opportunities for attention to practical Anatomy, and with ample clinical facilities at the Commercial Hospital.

The arrangements of the chairs will be as follows:—

T. K. W. JONES, M. D., *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology*; J. F. JONES, M. D., *Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy*; A. J. HARRIS, M. D., *Professor of Surgery*; C. H. CLAYBANK, M. D., *Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics*; W. A. MERRITT, M. D., *Professor of Medical Practice and Pathology*; J. E. BRYAN, M. D., *Associate Professor of Clinical Physiology and Institute of Medicine*; JOHN KINN, M. D., *Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.*

The Terms for the Session will be the same as heretofore, viz: Matriculation, \$5; Tuition, \$20; Demonstrator's Ticket, \$5; (every Student is required to engage in dissection one session before graduation.) Graduation, \$20; Ticket to Commercial Hospital, (optional,) \$5.

The Lecture Rooms are newly finished, neat and comfortable, and in a central locality (in College Hall, Walnut street,) where students will find it convenient to call on their arrival.

Tickets for the session may be obtained of the DEAN of the FACULTY, at his Office, No. 113 Smith street, or of Prof. C. H. CLAYBANK, Secretary of the Faculty, No. 139 Seventh street, near Elm.

JOHN KINN, M. D., DEAN.

have hitherto estimated the value of veterinary science in exact ratio to the talents of the *uneducated* representatives of our art, who have, in many instances, *palmed* themselves on their patrons as the *lights of science*. But a brighter day is dawning; the star of veterinary science is in the ascendant—practical knowledge assumes her empire—improvements tread on the heels of improvement—and the dark pages of veterinary science are illumined by her present refulgent progression. It remains for us to show, and carry conviction to the understanding of our employers, not by rhetoric, but by stubborn facts, that we are trustworthy practitioners, have spent our time and money in endeavoring to solve the problems of physiology and pathology, and we must demonstrate these facts in the presence of our employers, on and within the bodies of the ailing and diseased animal; and we can do it in all curable cases.

Special Privilege

In a series of answers to inquiries concerning the school in 1856, a practitioner asks if his long experience “. . . will not entitle him to some special privilege in obtaining a Diploma.” Dadd answers: “Every man desirous of *graduating* must attend two full courses of Lectures.” To another who writes that he “is too old to think of commencing a new medical career,” Dadd states: “This is only a matter of false opinion, for so long as a man be in possession of sound reason, age interposes no barrier against the acquirement of knowledge.” To one who complains that he “cannot spare time to attend lectures,” the retort is: “This we consider a very lame excuse, coming as it does from a man, now engaged, and intending to continue in, the practice of veterinary medicine.” And to one who fears he “does not know enough to study science,” Dadd states:

It is not necessary that a student should be in possession of extraordinary mental talents . . . [while] a classical education will aid him immensely in the pursuit of veterinary knowledge . . . let none despair — the faculty of our infant institution will be glad to welcome such into their ranks.

From these it is evident that the school had sent individual invitations to practitioners and others to attend the institution. The scanty records available would indicate that few availed themselves of the opportunity. According to Dadd, by December, 1857, the school had only six graduates.

The identity of some students and graduates of the Boston Veterinary Institute (possibly some of them Dadd's private pupils) can be determined from various articles in the *American Veterinary Journal*; these include:

- Dr. Jarvis Gay, South Dedham, Mass. — “a student of ours” [Dadd's?]
- Elias F. Ripley, B.V.I. student, [later] “Veterinary Practitioner”
- Lewis Putnam, B.V.I. student, [later] “resident physician at B.V.I. infirmary”
- Wm. Gibb, student, [later] “Passed Student”
- R. C. Fuller, student, “formerly many years in practice,” [later] V.S.

J. E. Smith, George Parry, Jacob Dilts, Mr. Flagg: students.

The *American Veterinary Review* in 1908 reported the death of William S. Kooker, V.S., who had “attended Dadd's Veterinary School in Boston.”

Notice to Students

It would appear that Dadd in 1858 seemingly became a competitor of the Boston school. In the *Journal* for January 1858 he inserted on the last page, a short “Notice to Students”:

The undersigned is prepared to receive, as private pupils, any number of persons who may desire preparatory education in the principles of Veterinary science. . . . Young men who contemplate a regular collegiate qualification, either in the Massachusetts “*Veterinary College*,” or in any other, abroad, will find this an excellent arrangement to put them in the way of accomplishing their object.

Dadd was Dean of the Faculty of the Boston Veterinary Institute at this time, and it may be that the president of the institution, Col. Moses Newell at this time, objected to this competition; at any rate, this notice was dropped. But beginning in July, 1858 (Newell died in April, a similar advertisement appeared regularly in the *Country Gentleman*, running until March, 1859.

That the Boston Veterinary Institute was still in business is evident — but barely so. In August the *Journal* announced: “The fourth session of this Institution will commence on Tuesday, the 1st day of September, 1858, and continue sixteen weeks.” In the September issue the date was advanced to November 1, and in November the opening was delayed to the 17th. On each occasion it was stated that each of the professors Dadd, Copeman, and the two Woods:

once a week will hold an examination upon subjects previously indicated . . . to promote a regular and systematic course of instruction. . . . The Faculty are in possession of the most extensive and valuable collection of morbid material, anatomical specimens . . . two articulated skeletons of the horse, one of the cow, and have the use of two French models

[of the horse]; the latter were imported from France at a cost of over one thousand dollars.

The latter apparently belonged to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society.

Evidently a quorum was not obtained, for the November notice is the last one on behalf of the Boston Veterinary Institute, and in the December issue one appears for the: "SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY, Established in Boston in 1849, by GEORGE H. DADD, M.D., V. S." The school was to be conducted at his place of business. One session of "three to four months," at a tuition fee of \$100, or two sessions: ". . . occupying a period of from *eight* to *twelve* months," for \$200 were offered; the diploma fee was dropped, and anyone with ten years' experience could qualify in one term instead of requiring two for everyone as the old Institute did. Each student was to be provided with free tickets to "lectures on Chemistry, and Pathological Anatomy, in the Medical Department of Harvard University," and each had "the privilege of attending all cases, which occur in the practice of the Principal and to attend the Infirmary at North Cambridge, free of extra charge." Below this notice is another for the "Infirmary of the Boston Veterinary School:

The Infirmary of our school is now located in North Cambridge; we have a temporary building, for present use, but will shortly erect one that shall be a credit to our profession . . . we have a forge . . . also every facility for dissection and have made arrangements with a party at North Cambridge, to dispose of all "offal;" so that we shall not be liable to indictment under the nuisance law.

The advertisement for his school blossomed into a full page in the three issues published in 1859 and more details are offered in an advertisement appearing in the *American Stock Journal* in 1859:

School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Established in Boston in 1849

by George H. Dadd, M.D., V.S.

The Study of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery

The undersigned is prepared to receive, as *pupils*, any number of persons desirous of ac-

quiring knowledge in the PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE of *Veterinary Science*. Unusual facilities for *dissection*, *demonstration* and infirmary practice are furnished, and the pupils can join a class at any season of the year.

REGULATIONS:

1st. The regular sessional term occupies a period of *four* months, each student is entitled, at the end of the first session, to a document certifying to his faithful attendance, qualifications, etc.

2d. Each student must, ere he presents himself for examination, have attended two full sessions, and then, provided he pass a satisfactory examination, before a committee of medical men, he receives a certificate bearing their signatures, and that of the principal, and seal of the School.

3d. Any person who may have practiced Veterinary Medicine for a period, of not less than ten years, and can produce documentary evidence of the fact, accompanied by testimonials of good moral character, he can after studying one session, present himself for examination; failing to satisfy the Board of Examiners of his proficiency, he must then qualify himself in whatever branch he appears deficient, and then he is entitled to a re-examination.

4th. During the period of the first or second session, (at the option of the student) he will be furnished with two tickets, which will admit him to attend lectures on Chemistry, and Pathological Anatomy, in the Medical Department of Harvard University.

TERMS: Tickets for a full course. . . . \$100.00
Examination fee, (paid once
only) 4.00

The student has the privilege of attending all cases which occur in the practice of the *Principal*, and to attend the *Infirmary* at North Cambridge, free of extra charge.

The school of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery is located at No. 55 Salem street, Boston, Mass. Good board can be obtained in the city, for the sum of \$3.50 per week.

GEORGE H. DADD, Principal

In January, 1859 the *Journal* carries an account of 25 cases "treated, and prescribed for, at the Boston School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery." Dadd identifies himself as "Lecturer on Veterinary Science." Two of these cases were reported in full by R. C. Fuller, V.S., a former stu-

dent. Also reported by Fuller is one of his cases which:

was evidently incurable at the late date his owner sought to obtain medical aid. . . . He was removed to the demonstrating-room of the "Boston Veterinary School," North Cambridge, where the principal proceeded with an autopsy, operations, and demonstrations, the pupils being in attendance.

The operations performed on the dead subject were: paracentesis, tenotomy, tracheotomy, suturing, and nicking. These were followed by an autopsy and anatomical demonstration, "which closed the operations for the day, subsequently followed by an entertaining and lucidly instructive lecture in the evening."

In February, 1859, George Parry, scribe, reports: "Doings at the Dissecting Room of the Boston Veterinary School." A horse "purchased by Dr. Lewis Putnam, resident physician at our infirmary," for five dollars, "which was contributed by the students," was anesthetized and then pithed: "Our instructor, Dr. Dadd, then performed as before; the ante-mortem diagnosis of 'disease of the heart' . . . made by Dr. Putnam, was evidently correct." Another horse which:

a person . . . had bled . . . to the amount of "half a bucket full," and had administered "lots of medicine," was visited by the principal of our school, who then pronounced sentence of death on the sufferer. . . . The autopsy revealed . . . the animal died *secundum ignoramum*.

Peripatetic Professor

How much longer Dadd maintained his school appears not to be a matter of record; mention is made of students accompanying him on a case in April, 1860, but his professorial duties may have been more in the nature of a preceptorship at this time. In 1860, he began a term as Veterinary Editor of the *American Stock Journal*, continuing with his practice in Boston for some time, but by January, 1861, he had moved to Cincinnati and set up in practice there.

Beginning in April, 1861, Dadd ran nearly a full page advertisement for the: "Academy of Veterinary Medicine and

Surgery, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Incorporated, February 27, 1861." The object was stated to be:

to educate persons by practical and clinical teaching, for the practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. . . . Hitherto, the means for education, in Veterinary art and science, has been very limited, and a vast number of the finest stock in the country die prematurely; many of them of unnecessary diseases, which might be prevented, by proper attention to the law of physiology, and in the rational practice of Veterinary science.

The "Departments of Tuition" were given as Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, and Theory and Practice of Veterinary Medicine — including both lectures and "the practice of the Principal." Chemistry was to be given through the medium of tickets to a lecture course "at one of the Medical Colleges of this city."

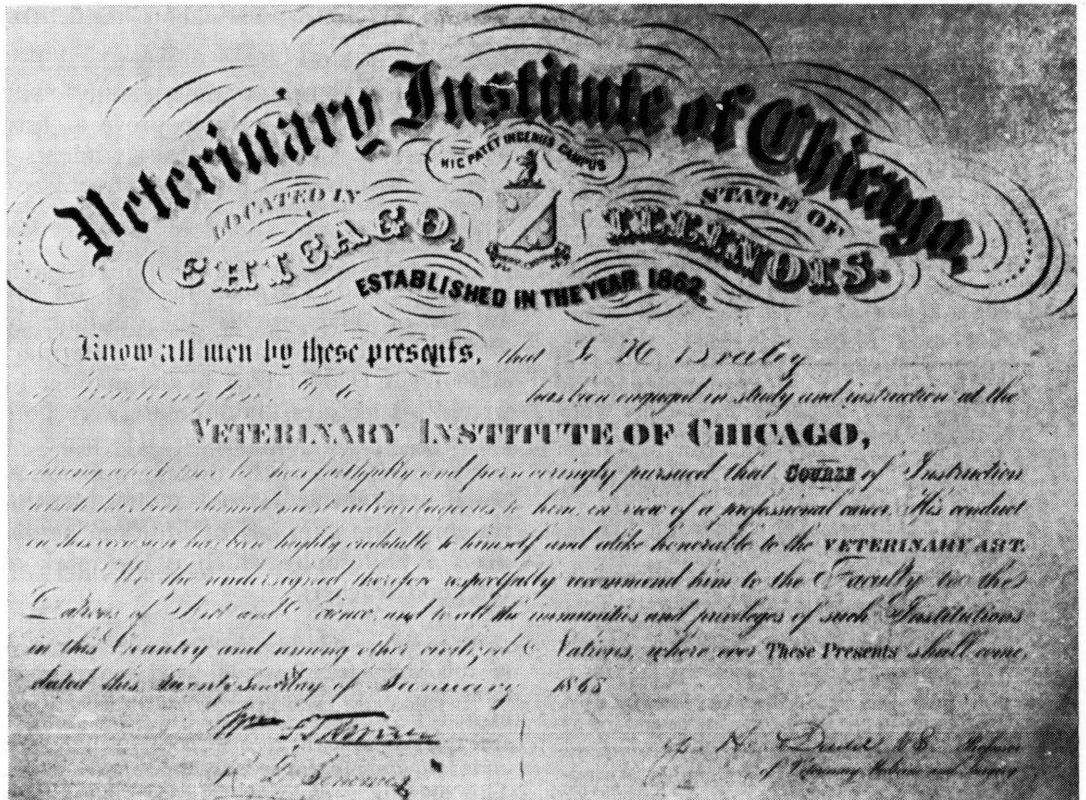
Two sessions of four months each were required, but one would suffice for "any student having attended one course of Lectures on Human Practice, at any School or College in this, or any other country." The expenses were listed as \$100 for the first session; \$50 for the second; diploma free of charge. There is no indication that he secured any students and in March, 1862, the *Prairie Farmer* announced he had taken up "permanent quarters" in St. Louis.

The Chicago Veterinary Institute

Dadd's "permanent quarters" in St. Louis were hardly that, for in September, 1862, under the heading: "Veterinary School in Chicago," the *Prairie Farmer* notes:

Dr. Geo. H. Dadd is now in this city with the object of making arrangements for a permanent location here for the practice of Veterinary Surgery, etc., and probably will open a school of instruction similar to the one he established in St. Louis. Dr. Dadd has a reputation which has gone before him, and the Northwest will no doubt be glad to know of his location in this city, where he can at all times be consulted by letter or personally.

Not one to let the grass grow under his feet, two weeks later Dadd's business card appears:



Diploma of graduate from Dadd's short-lived Veterinary Institute of Chicago. Probably more truthful than some similar "sheepskins," this merely states that the recipient "has been engaged in study and instruction." *Veterinary Medicine*

VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY.
GEO. H. DADD, Veterinary Surgeon, Late Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Boston Veterinary Institute. . . . Respectfully announces that he has just removed to the City of Chicago, for the purpose of practicing his Profession, and is prepared to treat all forms of Disease and Lameness incidental to every description of Domestic Animals. Dr. Dadd is prepared and qualified, as a Public Teacher, to receive Students in view of qualifying them as practitioners. Also, to give Practical Instructions, and render competent all persons desirous of serving as Army Veterinary Surgeons. Particular attention given to the operation of Spaying Milch Cows. **G. H. Dadd**, Veterinary Surgeon, Office, Phoenix Stables, corner State and Adams Sts.

While Dadd's "business card" had about the same degree of frankness as those of some physicians and dentists of the time, it is of some interest that as a "removal notice," it ran for 13 months, appearing for

the last time in October, 1863. This was replaced in the issue immediately following by an advertisement for:

VETERINARY INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO. (Incorporated) The regular tuition fee for qualifying students for the practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery is one hundred dollars. Diploma, twenty-five dollars. **G. H. Dadd, M.D., V.S., Principal.**

In November we are provided with further details:

First session, 1863-1864. The perpetual tuition fee, for instruction and qualification—One Hundred Dollars. Diploma—Twenty-Five Dollars. Single Session ticket, without Diploma—Fifty Dollars. Single class ticket for amateurs, four months—Twenty-Five Dollars. *Theory and Practice of Medicine*—Anatomy and Physiology, Professor **G. H. Dadd**; Surgery and Surgical Anatomy, Prof. McDonnell; Principles and Practice of Shoeing, Professor **G. H.**

Dadd; Clinical Instruction, Professor McDonnell.

The latter notice was discontinued in January, 1864, and a year later was expanded as a "Circular" detailing the "Departments of Tuition" as follows:

Anatomy and Physiology.—The Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology will be demonstrated and illustrated by Dissection, and by means of Diagrams, Skeletons, and prepared Anatomical Specimens.

Theory and Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.—Ample means for acquiring a thorough knowledge . . . occurs in the practice of the Principal of the Institute, and the same is also taught through the medium of daily Lectures and Recitations.

The Text Books used in the Institute are as follows:

Anatomy and Physiology—Percivall, Blaine, Dadd, Carpenter.

Chemistry and Pharmacology—Morton's *Manual of Pharmacy, and the ordinary Text Books of the Schools of Medicine.*

Materia Medica—Finlay Dun, and the United States Dispensatory.

Theory and Practice—Blaine's Outlines of the Veterinary Art, on the Treatment of Diseases of Horses and Cattle, Youatt on the same Subjects, and Percivall's Hippopathology.

Veterinary Jurisprudence—Oliphant, and the Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois.

Regulations—The Sessions of this Institution are perpetual; so that when a Student considers himself competent as a candidate for a Diploma, he can present himself before the Board of Examiners. Students can commence their studies at any time.

This notice ran until August, 1865. How many students, and whether or not there were any "graduates," beyond the record of one diploma which was issued, does not appear to be a matter of record. In 1865 there is a "Case of Mal-Presentation . . . Reported for the Prairie Farmer by a Student of the Veterinary Institute." A cow belonging to a man on West Madison Street had been in labor several hours when:

Finally, the services of Dr. McDonnell and Dadd were secured, and, by invitation, the students of the Veterinary Institute of Chicago, were present. . . . Dr. Dadd operated . . . students Carey and Chamberlain employed

traction . . . and in a few minutes the delivery was effected.

The writer identifies himself only "Student." This would seem to prove at least the existence of two or three students—and of cows on West Madison Street.

Lucid Lectures

One of Dadd's articles in 1863, on amaurosis, or "glass eye," is the substance of a "Clinical Lecture at Chicago Veterinary School." If Dadd talked in the manner he writes, his lectures undoubtedly were both instructive and interesting. He gives a good description of the disease, apparently based upon an actual case with which his students were familiar. In addition, he displays a philosophy which is the mark of the good teacher:

When your attention shall be called to a case of this character, I would have you bear in mind . . . that this condition . . . as well as many other diseases . . . are often self limited, and the subjects will recover if carefully nursed and left unembarrassed by poisonous drugs. This opinion is endorsed by some of the most distinguished surgeons of the present day. I have no desire to try to saddle you with any peculiar notions of medication emanating from my own fancy. . . . Excessive medication is a quicksand which you must try to avoid; thousands of well meaning medical aspirants have actually committed professional suicide, by clinging to the absurd theory of medication as practiced in bygone days.

Having obtained the history:

which you must endeavor to elicit from the owner . . . the cause . . . you must endeavor to decide on by careful examination, then frame your plan of treatment in accordance with the indications to be fulfilled. . . . Should you consult authorities on amaurosis, you will find much diversity of opinion exists. . . . Don't place too much confidence in mere book authority, no matter how high the source, unless your experience and intelligence endorses the theory or facts in the case . . . you who propose to do your own thinking, have the ability to judge between right and wrong. Read your textbooks carefully, commit to memory all matters which appear to you as facts, and forget the rest.

VETERINARY SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

The *American Stock Journal* advertised that among its improvements for 1860:

THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT will be under the editorial direction of Dr. Geo. H. Dadd, the distinguished Veterinary Surgeon, and late Editor and Proprietor of the *American Veterinary Journal*.

That Dadd's services were needed may be appreciated from advice for founder appearing in this journal in 1859:

Raise the foot so as to be level — pour spirits of turpentine, a sufficient quantity, so as not to run over the hoof; then set the turpentine on fire, and let it be entirely consumed. If the above does not cure a foundered horse, as soon as the operation is over, then your readers may doubt all further recipes from Veritas. [!]

The Only Remedy

The *American Stock Journal* was published in New York; Dadd conducted its Veterinary Department from Boston. In his first column for 1860, Dadd writes:

The history of veterinary science in the "old world," shows that it cannot possibly flourish, unless immediately connected with its sister science — agriculture; in fact, it is a branch of the science of husbandry, and no farmer can be expected to raise healthy stock unless he is somewhat acquainted with its principles and practice. . . . There never was a period like the present, when the services of veterinary practitioners were so much needed . . . and as veterinary surgeons in this country are so few and widely scattered, the only remedy for the emergency, as I understand the subject, is to render the science popular, by endeavoring to instruct the stock raisers. . . . This shall be my sole object, in this new field of labor.

Dadd's experience with professional education obviously had altered his outlook, and in this he undoubtedly had some justification; whether his new approach was the proper answer is, perhaps, open to suspicion.

Dadd apparently gave up the professorial platform with some reluctance; in his first column he discusses "Gut Tie, or Strangulation of the Bowels," and after explaining it in plain terms, he adds: "The operation is rather a formidable one, there-

fore the animal should be brought under the influence of concentrated ether." Just what his farmer friends were to make of this is something he does not enlarge upon. The *American Stock Journal* had run a veterinary column from its inception in 1859; under Dadd the column was considerably enlarged and improved — at least to the extent that Dadd's appointment was a virtual guarantee that no outright barbarities would appear. The Veterinary Department for 1860 occupied an aggregate of 73 large pages of small print — practically book length in itself. Dadd also wrote extensively on contagious pleuropneumonia which had been introduced into Massachusetts in 1859. His investigations of the disease are considered under that heading.

Cattle Problems

Among other items of interest in Dadd's veterinary column for 1860 is his answer to an inquiry on the spaying of cows:

The operation of spaying cows was known in remote antiquity; in modern practice it dates back about thirty years. . . . [In] my own experience . . . the milk of spayed cows gives more cream than ordinary milk, and the butter extracted is more delicious in taste. . . . There is no danger in performing the operation, provided a suitable animal be selected, and the operation is performed in a skillful manner, the animal being under the influence of sulphuric ether.

A correspondent mentions, "Dr. Dadd, accompanied by three of his students," spayed a number of cows. This occurred in April, 1860, and would appear to be evidence that Dadd still had a few students.

On the question: "Can diseased food be eaten with impunity?" Dadd states:

It depends upon the nature of the disease; for example *milk sickness* . . . is not endemic as regards man, but only affects those who partake of the flesh [of affected cattle], their milk and its products . . . yet with regard to the flesh, &c. of cattle, the subjects of Pleuro-pneumonia . . . no one single proof can be adduced of any direct injurious effects resulting from the consumption of such objectionable carrion.

He at least leaves little doubt as to his opinion of the esthetics of the matter.

Up to this time, mastitis, or garget as it was more commonly known, is little mentioned in the agricultural papers. Earlier, when the great majority of cows were such that they gave but little milk, perhaps the disease was not a problem. Later it would seem that under the conditions prevalent in most dairies, it must have been common — perhaps so common as to be accepted as one of the incidental hazards of dairying. In 1860 Dadd states:

This is a very common complaint among cows. . . . A great proportion of the cases of garget that have come under my observation, were clearly traceable to errors in dietetics. It is a fact, however, worthy of consideration, that some cows inherit a peculiarity of organism and predisposition to this disease.

He considers that too heavy feeding is the principal cause, notes inflammatory, suppurative, and indurated types, and states that he has not seen gangrenous mastitis in the United States — something not uncommon in Europe. He recommends thorough milking, bathing the udder with cool water, a light diet, and lancing any abscesses that may appear.

In response to an inquiry, Dadd prescribes for spavin, adding: "Dr. Sawbones, however, contends that the easiest way to cure Spavin, is to 'trade off' the spavined horse." And to this same man, who "would like to see a cure for spring-halt," Dadd replies:

So would I — it is an incurable affection. The French people are very fond of horses having a spring-halt gait; they consider the unnatural movements of the hind limbs as somewhat graceful, resembling the gyrations of a French dancing master; hence in view of curing — getting rid of — a faulty animal, send him to France.

Advertising Editor

Dadd continued to be an inveterate advertiser during this period; beginning with the first issue, the *American Stock Journal* carried the promotion for his "School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery." In the

early issues he states it was established in 1849; in October and running through November, 1860, he states that the school was established in 1848. At intervals he advertises his books, and an extensive list of some 40 veterinary instruments for sale, including such items as suture wire at 25 cents an ounce, to slings for horses at \$25. Other items: fleams, catheters, hernia knives, balling irons, castrating clamps, spaying knives, embryotomy knives, nerving knives, probangs, milk tubes, etc., etc., suggest the range of operations some farmers may have been attempting. Just what the farmer was to do with an "instrument for removing the piece of cartilage when performing tracheotomy," or "instrument for reducing an inverted womb," is perhaps in doubt.

In 1860 he advertised:

Compound Fluid Extracts, and Chlorinated Soda, Prepared expressly for the cure of the different forms of Rot which affect Sheep: . . . Fluke Rot . . . Water Rot . . . Foot Rot . . . and Liver Rot.

He also had "Alcoholic Extract of Plantain and Scullcap . . . for the Treatment of Hydrophobia, Lockjaw, &c." This was to be taken internally, and the bitten part bathed with it. It should be added that a number of physicians also advertised remedies for rabies which contained the same ingredients — not that this renders Dadd any the less culpable.

Itinerant Advisor

In November, 1860, the *Stock Journal* notes:

Dr. G. H. Dadd, Veterinary Surgeon, will on the first of March next remove, with his family, to Louisville, Ky., where he will practice his profession and establish a Veterinary School.

From this it would appear that the pickings around Boston must have been no longer to Dadd's liking. In January, 1861, however, it was noted:

he has changed his mind, and has removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he will establish a Veterinary School, and practice his profession.

Dadd continued his editorship of the Veterinary Department of the *American Stock Journal* until late 1862. Many of his columns continued to be abstracted from other, principally foreign, journals, but he also contributed a good deal of original material, both in the form of case reports and answers to inquiries, and in academic discussions on such topics as the "Anatomy and Function of the Heart of the Horse."

In August, 1861, there appeared the business card of:

Dadd and Livezey, Veterinary Surgeons, Dealers in all kinds of Surgical Instruments, Books, Fluid Extracts, and all Medicines used by Veterinary Surgeons.

This and his school advertisement ran until March, 1862. Both Dadd and Livezey appear to have had a considerable practice; the latter also contributed a number of case reports to the *Stock Journal*.

An article on the loss of army horses in 1862 states:

It appears to us that educated veterinary surgeons are as necessary for the army as human surgeons, and it is about time that the General Government call in the aid of science to minister to the wants, aches and the pains of the inferior order of creation. . . . We are glad to know that Gen. Mitchel . . . has furnished several companies of artillery with a small medicine chest, containing a few useful articles for obvious diseases and injuries, which may possibly do much good, and be the means of turning the attention of others in the command to the importance of providing for the welfare of horses. Gen. Mitchel has also secured the services of Dr. Geo. H. Dadd, the well known veterinary author and surgeon, and should the General take the field, Dr. Dadd accompanies him.

To this item — apparently written by the editors — a note is appended, stating:

We understand that Gen. Mitchel has resigned, and Dr. Dadd has been appointed Veterinary Surgeon to the Second Ohio Regiment of Cavalry, now encamped at Camp Corwin, and commanded by Col. Taylor.

Dadd apparently saw little — if any — military service, for in May, 1862, the editors

of the *Stock Journal* note that Dadd "has removed from Cincinnati to St. Louis, where we trust his science and skill will be appreciated, as they have been wherever he has been known." Dadd's attempt to form a school in Cincinnati apparently was a complete failure, or at least there appears to be no record concerning any activities of the "Academy." In April, Dadd's new business card had appeared, stating his office to be "at the stable of Glasgow & Harkness." The latter apparently was James Harkness, a self-educated veterinary surgeon, whose practice was limited to the 125 horses maintained by the firm. Earlier, Harkness had written for the *American Veterinary Journal*. Dadd's card appears until October, 1862.

Under the heading: "Veterinary Surgeon for Illinois," it is noted in the *Prairie Farmer* for March, 1862:

Those acquainted with Dr. Geo. H. Dadd, formerly of Boston and late of Cincinnati, will be glad to learn that he is to take up permanent quarters in St. Louis, where he can be more easily consulted by Illinoisians.

Dadd's first "consultation," via correspondence in the *Prairie Farmer*, appears six weeks later in a diagnosis of ascites as the cause of death of a pig: "From whose porcine corporosity you extracted a bucket and a half of water." In the same communication he identifies a "distemper" in the Nebraska Territory as anthrax "a disease over which medicine has but little control."

In a second article, Dadd gives a lengthy discussion on sweeny of horses, which he says:

prevails very extensively among western horses . . . yet very little of a reliable character has ever been written on the subject, hence as a professed teacher of veterinary science, and not being willing to carry my knowledge to the grave, it becomes my pleasant duty to give the public the benefit of my experience. . . .

To Popularize the Science

In January, 1863, a Veterinary Department, conducted by Geo. H. Dadd, V.S.,

appeared in the *Prairie Farmer*. Concerning this venture, Dadd says:

Through the liberality of the proprietors of the *Prairie Farmer* I am engaged as a regular contributor for the year 1863; during which period I shall endeavor to furnish a series of practical articles on the causes, nature, and treatment of some of the most obvious diseases, incidental to horses and cattle. I shall try, as I have always done, to popularize the science of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, and in this way exalt it in the estimation of those who may have failed to realize its value.

One of his first articles concerned: "Remarks on Veterinary Science, and the relation it bears to social science," in which he states:

The necessity which now exists for the services of educated Veterinary Surgeons in cavalry regiments of the United States army, is evident to every thinking man; yet prior to the advent of our present national trouble, it was found almost impossible to interest the right kind of men, so that they might use their influence for the purpose of directing attention of the general Government to the value and importance of Veterinary Science; but the probability is . . . before long, we may expect to hear of the appointment of a Veterinary Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon to each cavalry regiment. . . .

The great losses which are continually occurring among army horses, is a monstrous and growing evil, and in view of preventing unnecessary diseases and premature deaths the Government must organize a Veterinary corps. It is, also, very important that our science should attract the notice of Legislators, for it bears a very intimate relation to *social* science; inasmuch as men, and animals are subject to similar diseases, which are communicable one to the other. . . .

Let the husbandmen and stock raisers of this country, put their shoulders to the wheel, in view of establishing veterinary schools and colleges throughout the length and breadth of our immense agricultural domain. . . . I am not disposed to find fault, nor scold about the itinerant veterinary practice which prevails in this locality . . . the fault is not with the practitioners, but with the *people* who have failed to furnish the means for education.

In response to an inquiry on the spaying of cows, Dadd states:

The operation is performed on heifers at two dollars per head; on milch cows, three dol-

lars. A veterinary surgeon, located in this city, cannot afford to leave his business, go into the country, and perform such operations for any thing less than the above sum. Hence I would advise all those who wish to perform this operation on their own, and neighbors animals, to attend a course of Lectures at the Chicago Veterinary School.

In stating that milk "obtained from diseased animals is not fit to drink," Dadd reveals:

There are thousands of cows kept in large cities, located in down cellar "black holes," or unventilated and filthy barns or stables, that in consequence of such treatment are never in the enjoyment of good health; hence their lacteal secretion cannot be of a healthy character, and when drank . . . it must have pernicious effects.

In a half-humorous vein, he gives space to a correspondent with a lame horse which a "celebrated farrier" had diagnosed as:

Twitter bones, and he would be cured in two weeks . . . for a certain fee . . . with a hot iron, he burned on each side of the joint just above the hoof, and left some liniment to heal it up. . . . I could find nothing (concerning "Twitter bones") in Youatt, and thought perhaps I was "sold" in the matter.

Dadd agrees: "You have probably been 'sold.'"

The Law on Glanders

In commenting on the sale of glandered horses by the army, it was noted that Illinois had a law which should have covered the matter, but apparently it was not being enforced:

If any person shall suffer to run at large, or keep in any place where other creatures can have access to, and become infected, any horse, mare, gelding, mule or ass, that is known to the owner or the person having the same in his care and possession, affected with glanders, distempers or any other infectious disease, he shall be fined in the sum of twenty dollars, and shall be liable to pay all the damage that may result from such running at large.

Among the numerous items in Dadd's columns for the latter part of 1863 are sev-

eral on glanders, which apparently was being spread by the sale of condemned army horses. On one occasion Dadd was called to see a colicky horse, and finding it also had glanders, advised destruction of the animal. This horse being an ex-army steed, Dadd advised readers "to be careful how they purchase condemned horses." And noting that many army horses being sold had farcy, he states:

I think it is an outrageous shame that officers in the employ of the government should be permitted to dispose of stock that are not only worthless, but in the eyes of the law are unsaleable. The evil is a monstrous and growing one, and demands the serious attention of our husbandmen. Should a horse dealer in this city dispose of a farcied or glandered horse, and either one of the diseases be communicated to other stock the seller would be held responsible for the consequences. As I understand the subject, the law is no respecter of persons, and a Quartermaster has no more right to sell a farcied or glandered horse than a common dealer. . . . It is a notorious fact that the Government of the U.S., under the auspices of its agents—the Quartermasters—are, (as fast as a lot of condemned equines can be got together) authorized to sell or palm off that which is worthless and consequently unsaleable.

Dadd quotes several instances of communication of glanders to man to strengthen his case.

Dadd was still about the only proponent of veterinary anesthesia at this time a decade after he had used it in Boston. In response to a query on how to shoe a vicious horse, he says:

I have seen chloroform used with great success. . . . It is only necessary to administer by means of a sponge to the nostrils a sufficient quantity to stupify the horse, or there may be danger of the animal falling on the blacksmith.

And in visiting a colicky horse:

There seemed to be little hope for the animal, and fearing that he might either kill himself by violence or injure those in attendance, I concluded to chloroform him, and thus put a stop to his dangerous performances; he had the best of us about long enough, and now it was for me to show what science had in store for such otherwise unmanageable cases. . . . It was an encouraging sight to behold the once

powerful and furious animal, now lying free from pain and deprived of the power to injure himself or those in attendance. . . . At the end of an hour . . . he was allowed to rise.

The horse was given nitre and lobelia, and except for self-inflicted injuries, was well in a few hours.

With Charity Toward Blacksmiths

On the subject of veterinary education, Dadd mentions:

The government of Russia expends, per annum, for the support of three veterinary schools, the sum of 754,000 francs. It is about time that the government of this country made a move in a similar enterprise.

And stating that a knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the foot is required for proper shoeing, he asks:

How is this knowledge to be obtained? Can it be furnished at the forge—in the blacksmith's shop? . . . The fact is, the husbandmen of this country have failed to put their shoulders to the wheel for the purpose of establishing veterinary schools in this country, and if blacksmiths and "vets" do not understand the anatomy of horse's feet, the former whom have vast interests at stake, must come in for a share of the blame. . . . I for one, am disposed to be charitable towards blacksmiths.

In an article on: "The Present Condition of Veterinary Medicine," the charge is made:

The records of the past and present demonstrate that a total disregard for the feelings of the brute creation is compatible with a high state of civilization. . . . Bad as is the effect of quackery in human medicine, it is at least exempt from much of the barbarism that still clings to brute surgery; the man does not live who dares tie a fellow-creature to the table, and hack at him till he finds what he seeks for. But who considers the beast under the same conditions? "It is only a horse," is a sufficient cover for any amount of mal-practice and barbarity.

Among the barbarities railed against are giving a live fish for constipation, pretended reduction of "gut-tie" via laparotomy, wolf-in-the-tail, burning for lampas,

chiseling off spavins, boiling pitch for fistula, and tearing off the sole; the latter three:

Are only tolerated among the few who are not included in the sphere of civilization . . . [and] would stain the reputation of a wild Indian. . . . The improvement of veterinary medicine, especially in relation to agriculture, is dependent upon the agriculturalist himself; let but the demand for educated practitioners exist, and the supply will more than keep pace with it.

This lengthy, but acutely phrased article is taken from another journal, and apparently is not written by Dadd, but it is obvious that these thoughts coincide precisely with his own. The effect, if any, on subscribers to the *Prairie Farmer* would have been the same either way.

No Cure for Cancer

An article summarizing the known information on cancer in animals is taken from European sources. It might be a little surprising for some today to realize that this much was known a century ago:

With the microscope [and other means] diagnosis of cancer has become relatively certain. . . . Cancerous tumors have been found in all body regions and tissues. Cancer is probably incurable; even when a tumor does not reappear after excision, one cannot affirm that the animal is cured. The causes of cancer are unknown. . . . Cancer does not disappear under the influence of remedies. . . . Carnivores are more susceptible to cancer than herbivores, and females than males. . . . Cancer is hereditary, or at least it has been observed to be so in the dog; it is not transmissible either from animals to man, or from one animal to another. . . . Cancerous tumors should be excised as soon as possible; when removed from carnivores, a vegetable diet renders relapse less certain. . . . Many tumors have improperly been named cancers.

In two long articles on bighead (osteoporosis) of horses in 1863, Dadd indicates:

The evil is one of alarming proportions, and should the disease multiply in a ratio equal to that of the few past years, it will be a terrible blow . . . the disease itself is incurable. . . .

Our services as physicians, are only secured . . . so that the animal may be enabled to perform the ordinary equine duties; this is what some persons please to term a cure. . . . I have often been told that horses, after having all sorts of barbarities practiced on them, have recovered; this, so far as the treatment is concerned, is in accordance with the spirit of the old error, "He got well after taking my medicine; therefore, in consequence of taking it." . . . The disease has extensive ramifications in various parts of the bony fabric, and therefore the local treatment must fail in curing the malady.

Dadd suspected the disease was of nutritional origin, and prescribed cod liver oil, among other remedies. He doubted it was transmissible, but thought heredity was a predisposing factor.

In December, 1863:

The disease known as Influenza, is now quite prevalent in Chicago; it first made its appearance about three months ago, and exhibits all the phenomena of an enzootic affection, appearing here and there in isolated spots within, and around the city. . . . It does not differ . . . from similar visitations in this country in former years. . . . We must neither bleed nor purge, for by so doing we augment the prostration of the system, and to my certain knowledge many animals in this city, that have been thus treated, have died, victims of a misguided notion of medication.

Pecuniarily Professional

The problem of how much information can or should be given through the medium of a veterinary column has always been a sticky one. This is true of the "What is the matter with my horse?" type of inquiry, especially so when it is obvious that it is only a single animal that is affected. Some of the agricultural journals of the late nineteenth century advertised: "A free horse doctor with every subscription," and attempted to make good the promise. Dadd, however, takes quite a different stand on the matter:

I am willing, and it gives me much pleasure, to answer, through the columns of the *Prairie Farmer*, communications of a general character, calculated to benefit the community of stock owners, but I cannot spare the time, nor neglect my practice, to answer without pay, letters

through this paper, which should be addressed to me professionally, and which are only calculated to benefit the writer pecuniarily.

Citing one such instance of a farmer who asked how to remove a “wart-like excrescence” from the coronet of a horse which had been fired for ringbone, Dadd replies:

The case you describe would require the attention and services of an educated veterinary surgeon. In order to give you anything like the necessary information, I should have to write a lengthy article. . . . The subject is, no doubt, of great importance to you, but not to the generality of readers, and in all such cases it is usual to consult a professional man professionally, and inclose the usual fee of two dollars, which will secure an answer by mail.

This would perhaps suggest that Dadd was not overly well paid for his veterinary column, although he makes this stipulation but once. And more than once he does answer items similar to the one he refused in this instance. Like anyone else, Dadd had to make a living, and it may be surmised that his short residence in St. Louis was occasioned by inadequate revenues from practice and his ill-fated school. There are those who would castigate Dadd for his promotion of stock remedies, and this undoubtedly did, even then, lower his professional standing to some degree. And although medical ethics a century ago were not what they are today, an advertisement for “Hostetter’s celebrated Stomach Bitters” charges:

Advertising has been pronounced “undignified” by the medical faculty. A physician who advertises a valuable remedy to fifty people in his private practice, would receive the cold shoulder from his professional brethren should he make its merits known to millions through the business columns of a newspaper press. This may be “dignified,” but is it benevolent, humane, or just? Whoever is fortunate enough to discover or invent anything that will prevent, or cure or alleviate human suffering, is bound to make it known.

While his pocketbook presumably was a consideration, Dadd may have promoted some of his remedies with the same motives in mind. Whatever the case, it is likely

that any remedies he would manufacture or approve would be an improvement on the general run of remedies that were available. Shortly after his removal to Chicago, Dadd’s testimonial appears in an advertisement for: “The American Magnetic Equine Powders . . . Liniment . . . [and] Lotion.” These, Dadd says, he has tested in his practice, and would:

Cordially recommend them as being far more efficacious for the treatment of the various diseases for which they are designed, than any remedies of which I have knowledge.

And advertised by the maker was:

Dr. Dadd’s Fluid Extract of Resin Weed Root . . . for the treatment of all affections of the lungs and throat . . . whether occurring in man or domestic animals.

He seems, however, to have given up promotion of the extensive line of remedies he had manufactured in Boston.

Dadd continued to write for the *Prairie Farmer* until August, 1865, when his column suddenly stops without explanation. Whatever one chooses to think of his veterinary journalism, this much would seem to be a fact: during the several years he wrote for the *Prairie Farmer*, the treatment of animals — at least those belonging to owners who followed Dadd — was suddenly elevated to something nearly what we should like to have seen much sooner.

What subscribers did for information on animal disease for some time following is not evident; for the balance of the year, the only articles to appear are several on the danger of glanders in horses purchased from the army, and several on the cattle plague in England. Included among the latter is: “A Prayer for the Removal of the Cattle Plague . . . drawn up by the prime of England.” The “grievous murrain among our herds and flocks,” was recognized as deserved chastisement for the erring populace. How much application this may have had to the American scene is, perhaps, a moot point, but American farmers undoubtedly would have approved of the request for protection “from the pesti-

lence with which many foreign lands have been smitten."

Dadd's Demise

The first notice in the *Prairie Farmer* concerning Dadd since his defection from the post of veterinary editor is a review by his successor, N. H. Paaren, of a new work by Dadd in 1867: "Dadd's *Theory and Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery* . . . embracing the latest information on the Rinderpest and the Trichina." The new veterinary editor is rather fulsome in his praise of this work:

We have come to the conclusion that this book is deserving of the highest commendation. In the present state of Veterinary Science in this country, this work was demanded.

In two dozen lines, he uses the following adjectives for the book or its author:

celebrated, disciplined, valuable, appropriate, instructive, entertaining, easily comprehended, satisfying, copious, complete, original, ingenious. . . . On the whole, we consider this work a valuable contribution both to science and to literature generally.

What more could any author want?

The next mention of Dadd appears in a notice of the staffing of the Iowa Agricultural College in 1868; among the faculty were a number of nonresident professors, including: "Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Dr. Dadd, Baltimore." It is evident, however, that Dadd missed this last chance to return to the lecture platform, for he died about the first of September, 1868. As reported in the *Prairie Farmer* for September 5 of that year:

Death of Dr. Dadd: This well known veterinary surgeon, died last week, in the city of Baltimore, from a disease resulting, it is thought, from a cold contracted during the recent freshet in that city. Scarcely past the prime of life, Dr. Dadd was a hale, hearty man, and his death came unexpectedly to his family and friends. The Dr. has written more pertaining to his profession than any man in this country, and his books, some of which have passed through several editions, are to be found

on the shelves of most farmers' libraries. Several years ago he commenced the publication of the *Veterinary Journal*, which for want of adequate support, was soon discontinued. After this he became a frequent contributor to the *Agricultural Journals of the Country*, and was for some time Veterinary Editor of *Prairie Farmer*. He was well known as a practitioner, in Boston, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago and Baltimore, in each of which cities, he at different times resided. His remains were brought to this city [Chicago] for interment, the funeral ceremonies taking place at the residence of his daughter, on Jackson St., on Sunday last.

This would suggest that he had moved to Baltimore after terminating his connection with the *Prairie Farmer*; evidently after severing his ties in Boston he had not yet found the situation that suited him.

In 1875 the *American Agriculturalist* advertised Dadd's *American Reformed Horse Book*:

The result of a lifetime of labor and research on the part of one of the foremost Veterinarians of the age. . . . Such was Dadd's success that he became widely known, and it was no unusual thing for him to be sent for, hundreds of miles, to attend valuable horses. His career as a practicing Veterinary Surgeon has been one of rare success.

And in promoting his *American Cattle Doctor*, it is stated that Dadd was for "Twenty-five years a leading Veterinary Surgeon in England and the United States." The only intimation that he was dead is his identification as "late Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Veterinary Institute of Chicago."

Although the above is obviously in the vein of the usual bookseller's blurb, it is not an unfitting epitaph. Few veterinarians before or since have written so voluminously or so well — but to so little avail so far as their influence upon the veterinary profession itself is concerned. Had Dadd chosen to be somewhat less dogmatic in stating his opposition to prevailing practice and insinuated himself into the "regular" veterinary profession, it seems likely that he might have become a stalwart of the budding profession. With New York

City as the only contender, Boston early became the center of the organized veterinary profession in America, and several of Dadd's associates: the two Woods, Large, Thayer, and Copeman, became presidents of the United States Veterinary Medical Association after its founding in 1863.

Some insight into Dadd's philosophy may be found in his reply to a letter from Robert Jennings requesting support for a national veterinary organization in 1860:

In regard to the National Veterinary Association I am afraid that you could not get enough "vets" together to make it an object. Jealousies and prejudices are very strong among the members of the craft, mainly graduates from the other side of the water look with supreme contempt on all who will not endorse the creed of dogmatical diction of the autocratic schools. Then, again, you are aware that you, as well as myself, have enemies within and around our fields of practice, that mere feelings of jealousy they will not give countenance nor support. Still if you deem it proper to form a N.V.M.A. you may count on my assistance and support.

Dadd, however, was soon to sever his connections with the Boston scene, and by 1863, when the next summons for organization of a national association was issued, he had long since been in Chicago. Only one veterinarian west of the Alleghenies, G. W. Bowler of Ohio, an associate of Jennings in his ill-fated veterinary school of

Philadelphia, was invited to the organization meeting. Had Dadd been closer at hand, however, it seems unlikely that he would have been invited.

In retrospect, it would seem that Dadd's activities on behalf of the budding veterinary profession—little appreciated by those who organized it and barely held it together for several decades—had little direct influence upon the development of professional veterinary medicine in America. Even from a most conservative viewpoint, however, it would seem that his philosophy and practice of veterinary medicine was far in advance of the times. Thus it was not until about forty years after Dadd had demonstrated the practicability of general anesthesia that its use was recognized as one of the strongest measures for elevating the status of veterinary medicine. It should not be supposed that he was the only humanitarian among veterinarians of his time, but he was the only one who spoke so forcefully and continually on the need for drastic changes in the rough and ready approach to the administration of drugs and the handling of animals.

Obviously, there is little point in speculating on "what might have been." However, there is nothing to prevent recognition of merit where it is due—even if it comes a century late.